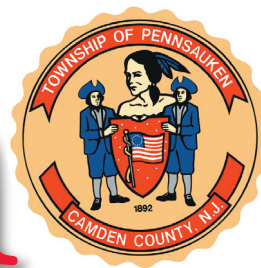


All Around Pennsauken



This holiday season, may you be blessed with Laughter, Peace, Love and Joy!

VOL. 24, NO. 12

A Publication for the Community of Pennsauken

December 2019

Operation Christmas Dinner To Help Service Members Away From Home

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Heather and Rich Cornforth's son, Chris, joined the United States Air Force in June, right after graduating high school. And while the Pennsauken residents are fortunate that their son will be home for the holidays, others aren't so lucky. So on Christmas Day, Heather, Rich, and an army of volunteers are planning on serving 100 military personnel from Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst at a local hall in town. They're calling it, "Operation Christmas Dinner."

"When I contacted Fort Dix to let them know we could help 100 service members as a host family, they called me back to make sure I wasn't kidding," explains Heather. "These men and women don't have family in the area and can't go home. We see such a need. We're lucky; others aren't."

"I come from a military family; I've heard the stories. It's pretty big not being home for the holidays. If we can help in any way, we will. I would hope that someone would do that for my child."

As part of Operation Christmas Dinner, the Cornforths are treating these men and women – all from different branches of the military – to a family-style dinner on Dec. 25. Instead of hitting the mess hall line, volunteers will serve military

OPERATION



CHRISTMAS DINNER

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Annual Angel Tree Program Helps Pennsauken Residents

Pennsauken residents and businesses are pitching in to help children in the community during the holiday season through the Angel Tree program, which collects new, unwrapped toys for families in need.

"The Angel Tree makes a real difference for Pennsauken families in need," says Elwood "Duke" Martz, director of Pennsauken's Parks and Recreation Department. "Thanks to the generosity of our community, many children who were going to wake up on Christmas morning without any presents are now going to have a gift under the tree."

Last year, dozens of Pennsauken families were helped through the Angel Tree program; the initiative for 2019 plans to support the same number of families.

The Angel Tree was started well over 25 years ago. A Christmas tree placed at the



The Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a happy hour on Thursday, Dec. 12, to collect toys for this year's Angel Tree program, which annually helps dozens of Pennsauken families in need during the holidays.

Penn Queen Diner allowed both patrons and members of the community to help their neighbors in need during the holidays. The success of that endeavor turned into today's Angel Tree program.

Individuals can purchase a new, unwrapped

toy and leave it at the Pennsauken Township Municipal Building, Route 130 and Merchantville Avenue, during normal business hours now through 4:00 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 16. Monetary donations are

continued on page 23

Holiday Celebrations Continue In Pennsauken



Santa Claus greets parade goers during Pennsauken's annual Parade of Lights, held this year on Friday, Dec. 13.

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Pennsauken's celebration of the holidays continues with two special events held this month: the town's annual tree lighting ceremony and Parade of Lights.

Tree Lighting Held On December 4

Pennsauken Township's tree lighting ceremony returns on Wednesday, Dec. 4, from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Township Municipal Complex, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. The evergreen tree outside of the Municipal Building is already ornately decorated for the holidays; and this year's event has a "Frozen" theme. Snow will fall on participants, regardless of the weather, courtesy

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Look! inside

Holiday Events
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Of Women's Suffrage
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This senior group meets on the second and fourth Tuesday of every month at 12:30 p.m. in St. Cecilia's School Hall, 4851 Camden Ave., Pennsauken. For more information, call (856) 662-2721.

PASA

The Pennsauken Alliance on Substance Abuse (PASA) meets on the second Wednesday of each month. The next meeting will be on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7:00 p.m., at Temple Lutheran Church, 5600 N. Crescent Blvd. Pennsauken. PASA works to increase community awareness about substance abuse, as well as provide prevention programs. The public is invited to attend.

Town Watch

Pennsauken's Town Watch hosts its next meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 11, 7:30 p.m., in the second floor meeting room of the Pennsauken Police Department, 4800 Bethel Ave. Come learn how to make our community safer. For more information, call (856) 488-0080 ext. 2417.

PHS Winter Vocal Concert

Join the talented students of Pennsauken High School for the Winter Vocal Concert, held on Thursday, Dec. 12, 7:00 p.m., at the PHS Auditorium, 800 Hylton Rd. This concert is free and

open for the public to attend. Don't miss out on this annual tradition; and join the students on stage for the finale of Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus!"

American Legion

American Legion Fredrick W. Griggs Post 68 will meet on Thursday, Dec. 12, 7:00 p.m., at the Merchantville Community Center, 212 Somerset Ave. Eligibility for membership in the American Legion has been expanded to include those who served honorably during the periods April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and December 7, 1941, to a time later determined by the federal government. The Post has an Auxiliary Unit which also meets at 7:00 p.m. at the same location. Any spouse, whether male or female, of a veteran who is an American Legion member, or the daughter of a veteran, are welcome to join.

Concert

The Wind Symphony of Southern New Jersey will perform a concert on Saturday, Dec. 14, 3:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Merchantville, 10 W. Maple Ave., Merchantville. Free will offerings are accepted.

PHS All Years Alumni Lunch Get Together

PHS Alumni from all years are invited to a monthly lunch at the Penn

Queen Diner, 7349 Rt. 130, Pennsauken. This month's lunch is on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 1:30 p.m. For more information, contact Norma at (856) 220-5597.

Introduction To Curling

Jersey Pinelands Curling Club is hosting an "Introduction to Curling" event on Saturday, Dec. 21, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Virtua Health Flyers Skate Zone, 6725 River Rd., Pennsauken. This event will prepare participants for an instructional league. For a fee of \$49, individuals will get on the ice for a first taste of curling, and receive a \$25 club credit to use toward future curling opportunities. To order tickets, or for more information, search "Introduction to Curling - December 21st" at Eventbrite.com.

Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club Holds Holiday Open Houses

Cherry Valley Model Railroad Club is having open houses throughout the holiday season. Located in the basement of Grace Episcopal Church, 7 East Maple Ave., Merchantville, the display features a two-rail, O gauge model railroad, including 4,000 linear feet of track and a reproduction of Philadelphia's 30th Street Station.

The area's largest operating O gauge model railroad display will be open to the public on the following dates:

- Dec. 7 and 8
- Jan. 4 and 5
- Jan. 11 and 12

All open houses run from noon to 3:00 p.m. and are free to attend. Free



Cherry Valley Model Railroad is holding a series of open houses for the holidays.

parking is also available.

For information, contact John P. Dunn Sr. at (609) 432-2871 or jdunn8888@comcast.net.

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MAYOR'S CORNER Helping Others Makes Us Happy



By Betsy McBride,
Mayor of
Pennsauken
Township

The end of the year, when all people everywhere celebrate holidays and traditions personal to their family, religion, or race, is a great time to reflect on what we have and what we can share. I'm a firm believer that we always, every moment, have something we can share that will help another person. This December, I am encouraging all Pennsauken residents to be "Pennsauken Proud" by demonstrating how willing we are to help each other – and others who cross our paths.

It's the simple things that matter the most, right? And no matter what we have personally, we can always help

someone. Take opening the door for someone or holding it open as someone hurries behind us. I can't tell you how happy it makes me to see this – even when I'm not the one at the door. Helping someone struggling with their groceries may require us to ask permission to help, but whether the answer is yes or no, it'll probably be followed by a "thank you." Perhaps we can help our elderly neighbors shovel their walk, or help our younger neighbors by sharing some Pennsauken story or a family tradition. Helping each other brings us closer. It's easy too. We can start by saying hello.

There's an old saying that "charity begins at home." It means we need to take care of our families before we help others. I think it's a great reminder of how to be present for each other, and especially during the rush of holiday gather-

ings and shopping. I think it would be a great gift to each other if we can spend less time on our phones and just notice ways to help each other at home. I remember a time when I was baking a lot of cookies. My son came in, wiped the flour from my nose, smiled, and asked if he could help. It occurred to me later that he got his paws on a lot of those cookies, but it sure felt great to get some help. I'm pretty sure he was happy too.

Taking the time to reflect on what we have and what we can share, some of us may want to help in more active ways. We can still give to Pennsauken's Angel Tree, which provides gifts to local needy families; or we can purchase and donate socks or gloves to a church or a soup kitchen. We can get our kids (and maybe their buddies) involved and cash in their pennies and make a donation to a charity

of their choice. They love the coin counter at the bank, right? We can consider going to a senior center and helping with Bingo or a craft. Of course, we call first, but I'm pretty sure they will find a way we can help...even if it's not in December.

And speaking of "not in December," I like traditions that spill over into the new year. We don't have to be done with the spirit of giving when January rolls around. So how about the tradition of helping others spilling over too? Even after we put our decorations away, we can still be helping others. In fact, those in need and those who are lonely are particularly sad in January and February. I encourage us, Pennsauken, to keep reaching out, keep holding those doors, and emptying penny jars to help others. And if we want more active ways to help, perhaps do a little Pennsauken research.

Look into events and activities happening in town. Clean ups and tree plantings beautify Pennsauken. Town Watch helps keep up safe. Coaching or advising youth groups or a Scout troop is a great way to help too. We have two food pantries in town – at Temple Lutheran and Mary, Queen of All Saints – perhaps you can help the volunteers sometime.

Any way we help each other will make us closer... and happier. Let's not delay... start today. God bless you and yours this December and all year through.

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BEST WISHES TO ALL OUR FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS DURING THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!



Franklinville – Brand New!

Over 2000 sq feet with a full basement and a 2 car garage. The home features spacious modern kitchen with granite counter-tops, tiled back splash, stainless steel appliances, and large island. Unique owner's suite with double closets and attached bath with a double vanity and a tiled walk in shower. Home sits on one cleared acre having both large front and back yards. Franklin and Delsea school districts. \$349,900



Maple Shade – Great Opportunity!

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Deptford – Bungalow

Two story bungalow located on a dead end street in Deptford. Close to shopping and dining. Raised the roof some years back and created two large bedrooms upstairs with walk-in closets and full bath, enlarged the living room, eat in kitchen and another bedroom and full bath on first floor. Full basement with tons of storage and could be finished if you needed more room. Does need some improvements but over all a great home with a little TLC this would be an amazing home. \$150,000



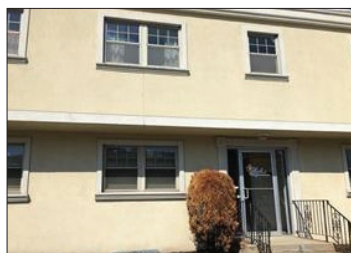
Pennsauken – Chadwyck II

A little elbow grease will unleash the potential in this lovely Chadwyck II Home. Being sold AS-IS. French doors, nice sliders to the yard. Main bath accessible from the master bedroom and the hallway. 3 bedrooms, 1½ baths. Very large family room on main level. Bright sunny home. Do you have the vision? \$159,000



Cherry Hill – Investor/Handyman Special!

Classic Barlow Bungalow, easily add a 3rd bedroom. Low taxes!! As solid as they come. This home has great bones. There's a recent survey, C/O, clear title and even WDI cert. Here's your chance to own a great home in a wonderful neighborhood or flip it and make a few bucks. \$155,000.



Pennsauken – Office

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Merchantville – Cattell Tract

This Beautiful Five Bedroom, Two and a Half Story Victorian (circa 1868). Spacious foyer leading to the grand staircase, a formal LR, decorative fireplace, formal DR, eat-in-kitchen, utility room with washer and dryer included, and a spacious family room with slate floors, fireplace, powder room. Second floor has 3 bdrms, full bath with claw tub and a shower. Third floor we have two additional bedrooms, a large attic storage area and a huge walk in closet. Full basement. Enjoy Historic Merchantville! \$250,000



Pennsauken – Great Opportunity!

This older bungalow (circa 1900) features a spacious living room/dining room area, and eat in kitchen, full bath and bedroom on the main floor. Upstairs features two more bedrooms with a spacious office area. The basement has a gas furnace and water heater along with the washer and dryer. Additional amenities include a fenced in yard, detached garage with tons of driveway parking, patio out back, enclosed front porch and lots of original charm! Property to be sold in it's current "as-is" condition with buyer responsible for the CO. What a Great Price! \$125,000



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WAGSWORLD An Angel And The Station Wagon: A Christmas Story

By Bob Wagner,
AAP Columnist

My friend Neil and I were fishing not long ago, which means we were mostly swapping stories. I shared one that he had never heard before, and he insisted that I write it up for sharing, especially for Christmas. Since Neil is not only my fishing buddy but also my barber, I feel the prudent thing to do is do as told. Otherwise, I may have to walk around for the holidays with my hat covering my hairdo. So here is a story.

A lot of years back, a good friend of mine lost his wife to cancer. They had

grown kids, were madly in love, and she was too young to die. My friend went on with his life, and I tried to visit him every month or so, whenever I was in Moorestown.

After two years or so had gone by, I was meeting him at his house before catching a ballgame. He had season tickets for the Trenton Thunder minor leaguers. I was out in his garage, catching a smoke, and realized he still had his wife's Chevy station wagon parked there. It was one of those older, nine-passenger land yachts, with the fake wood grain down the side. He had it polished up and shiny, but it hadn't moved in two years.

As we drove up to the game I asked him if he ever used the wagon anymore. He was quiet for a bit. He said he knew it was silly to keep it, but his Margie had always loved the family wagon. None of the kids needed or wanted it; when he passed it in the garage, it made him feel like she was still around. I told him I loved the huge old wagons, and that when we were first married, the bride loved our giant nine passenger wagon. I threw it out, for whatever reason, the suggestion that should he decide to ever sell it, to give me a call.

A few months later, with fall approaching, my old buddy set up a lunch meeting. Over sandwiches and stories, he

brought up the wagon. For any number of reasons, he was ready to part with the car, and remembered I was interested. Fast forward a couple weeks, and I'm at the house in Moorestown, behind the wheel of the giant wagon, the bride behind me to follow me home. The wagon was smooth, low mileage, and shining in the sun. My friend patted the roof, wished me well, and I drove home, thinking of new adventures.

A few days later, I was leaving the Township building for lunch. It was a quiet, sunny afternoon. I sat at the light at Rt. 130 and listened to an early Christmas song on the radio. As the light turned green, I stepped on the gas. The

car stalled, dead. As I reached for the key, with a surprised grumble about bad luck, an 18 wheeler blew through the light, right where I should have been. The car started right up. It had never done that before and never did it again.

A little while later, after pondering divine intervention, and the possibilities, I called my friend and repeated the story. I told him I truly believed his wife had somehow saved my life.

He was quiet a little bit, then told me that I just might be right. But not to place too much credit on his wife saving my life. He said, "She always did love that car."

Merry Christmas!

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Keep Homes Safe During Holidays With Safety Tips For Decorating

Submitted by the Pennsauken-Collingswood Fire Prevention & Inspection Bureau Reprinted with Permission from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is issuing safety tips for holiday decorations. Holiday decorations, like candles, lights and Christmas trees, add a joyous and festive mood to the holiday season. But when these decorations are not used properly, they can cause fires, injuries and death.

Each year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 12,800 people for falls, cuts, shocks, and burns due to incidents involving faulty holiday lights, dried-out Christmas trees and other holiday decorations.

To prevent these injuries, CPSC monitors holiday lights and other decorations sold at stores and on the Internet. CPSC works with the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection to identify and detain unsafe holiday light sets posing fire risks

from being distributed in the U.S.

Christmas trees are involved in about 300 fires annually, resulting in 10 deaths, 30 injuries and an average of about \$10 million in property damage and loss. In addition, there are more than 13,000 candle-related fires each year, which result in 140 deaths and \$205 million in property loss.

CPSC suggests following these tips to make your holiday a safe one.

TREES

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label "Fire Resistant." Although this label does not mean the tree won't catch fire, it does indicate the tree is more resistant to burning.
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and do not break when bent between your fingers. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on

the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.

- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

LIGHTS

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, such as UL or ETL. This indicates conformance with safety standards. Use only lights that have plugs containing fuses.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw out damaged sets. Always replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulbs.
- If using an extension cord, make sure

continued on page 34

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What Santa Claus Wants For Christmas

By Jolly Old Saint
Nicholas, AKA Santa Claus

Ho! Ho! Ho! It's always great to be back in Pennsauken for the holidays. Mrs. Claus and I truly enjoy taking part in all the wonderful events you have: the annual Holiday Parade; the Breakfast with Santa; the Tree Lighting at the Township Building; and your Parade of Lights, which visits a different part of town each year. You really get excited when the temperature goes down and the Christmas decorations go up.

If you've ever sat on Santa's lap, or visited me at a breakfast or store, I always ask what you'd like for Christmas. Some wish lists are easy; some are little tougher. Remember when Hatchimals

came out? I tried my best to get as many of those from Spin Master, the company that makes them. But even Santa has his limits. Still, it could have been worse. The Cabbage Patch Kids craze could have made a comeback. Talk about a lot folks who made a quick jump to the naughty list. But I digress.

Every once and a while, a little girl or boy asks me what I'd like for Christmas. Most times, I really don't think about it. I'm pretty busy making sure there are plenty of smiles when people wake up on Dec. 25. But when the smokes clears and I take a moment, the answer is pretty simple. My wish list for Christmas isn't for me. It's for each and every one of you.

I wish that in a hectic holiday season,

you find moments of peace of mind. That you remember that the most important gifts you'll get this time of year aren't the ones you'll find under the tree. To know that you even though you may not be able to get home for the holidays, your love for family and friends can't be broken by the many miles between you.

And if you've experienced loss, it's okay to be sad or angry; just remember it's also okay to try and be happy too.

A few special wishes for my younger fans: may you go to bed and stay there when your parents tell you to on Christmas Eve. And if you don't get everything you put on your list, it's okay.

Remember: the best things in life really aren't things.

On behalf of myself, Mrs. Claus, the elves, Rudolph and all of the reindeer, as well as Yukon Cornelius – I love that guy – I wish you and yours a joyous holiday season, a very Merry Christmas, and a prosperous start to 2020.



PMAC Hosts Angel Tree Happy Hour On December 12



The top three place winners for this year's Holiday Parade Poster Contest were recognized at the PMAC luncheon in November. Township Committeeman Marco DiBattista was on hand to present the awards to the talented students.

The Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a holiday happy hour to help add to this year's Angel Tree donations on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Marco's at Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd. The event features a complimentary buffet, drink specials, holiday music, and pictures with Santa. All attendees are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Angel Tree program. To RSVP for the event, e-mail pmac1team@gmail.com or call (856) 438-0833.

Poster Contest Winners Honored At PMAC Luncheon

The three top place winners of the Pennsauken Holiday Parade Poster Contest were honored at the Penn-

sauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce (P.M.A.C.) networking luncheon in November.

Pennsauken students in grades 5 through 12 were asked to submit artwork based on the theme, "Holiday Lights." Entries were judged by the P.M.A.C. planning committee. Congratulations to Rachel Biehl, Samantha Marino, and Azarya Patterson for their hard work and creativity. And as the first place winner, Azarya's artwork is highlighted in this year's poster for the Pennsauken Township Holiday Parade!

Thank you to Pennsauken Township Committeeman Marco DiBattista for presenting the awards, as well as Pennsauken School District Teachers Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Bennett, without whom, this contest would not be possible.



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Great Places To Grab Sweets And Desserts

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Whether you're headed to Pennsylvania and some homemade pumpkin pie, or have visions of sugarplums dancing in your head, you can't have the holidays without the sweets. There are some local establishments that can provide some serious help in the dessert department.

At the iconic Penn Queen Diner, located at 7349 North Crescent Blvd., all baking is done right there on the premises. You can order a variety of cheesecakes, pies, cakes, sheet cakes, and other desserts. For more info or to place an order, give a call at (856) 662-1928. You can also visit PennQueenDiner.com/ bakery for ideas.

Make your holiday morning extra easy and delicious with Pennsauken-based food truck Dan's Waffles' original pearl sugar liege waffles, recently named Best of the Best Waffles by SJ Magazine. The boxed waffles are \$20 a dozen. Chef Dan's famous triple coconut cream pies are topped with fresh whipped cream, Belgian white chocolate curls, and

toasted hand shaved fresh coconut. They've been featured on Food Network's "The Best Thing I Ever Ate" and are the winner of Best Dessert by Philadelphia Magazine. The pies serve 8 to 10 people and are \$40 each. Text orders to Dan at (856) 566-6650.

More than two billion candy canes are produced during the Christmas season; some of the best, homemade candy canes are found at the legendary Aunt Charlotte's, located at 5 West Maple Ave. in Merchantville. Shopping at Aunt Charlotte's during the holidays is a tried and true local tradition, as the store is decked with a lot more than boughs of holly. Customer favorites include chocolate covered pretzels, which fly off the shelves this time of year; non pareils, in red and green for the Christmas season; caramel and cashew crabs, made of caramel with cashews or peanuts; and sandwich mints, an Aunt Charlotte's exclusive. If someone on your list has a sweet tooth, this is the place to go. Call (856) 662-0058 for more information or visit AuntCharlottesCandy.com.

Pennsauken Fire Department To Escort Santa Through Neighborhoods

Pennsauken's Fire Department will once again be escorting Santa Claus through certain neighborhoods during the holidays. Times are estimated depending on weather and emergency responses.

Tuesday, December 3 (Evening)

- Meadowbrook: Fallon Drive to Park Ave., Union Ave. to Cooper Ave.
- Pennbrook: Grant Ave. to Patterson Lane, Pettit Rd. to Union Ave.
- Jordantown: Cooper Ave. to Haddonfield Rd., Park Ave. to Maple Ave.
- Homestead: Willow Ave. to Chapel Ave., Victoria Ave. to Wisteria Ave.

Tuesday, December 10 (Evening)

- East Pennsauken: Morton Ave. to Osler Ave., Haddonfield Rd. to Maryland Ave.
- Iron Rock: Maple Ave. to Bryn Mawr Ave., New York Ave. to Maryland Ave.
- Highland: Poplar Ave. to Marlton Pike, Rt. 130 to Browning Rd.
- Admiral Park: Myrtle Ave. to Earle Ave., Rosemont Ave. to Rt. 130.
- Pennsauken Estates: Chestnut Ave. to Park Ave., Cove Rd. to Bethel Ave.

Tuesday, December 17 (Evening)

- Chadwyck I, II, III: Powell Ave. to

Hadley Drive, Greenbriar Rd. to Weymouth Drive.

- Bloomfield Park: Woodbine Ave. to Beacon Ave., Browning Rd. to Magnolia Ave.
- Fairview Estates: Holmecrest Ave. to Golfview Ave., Cynwyd Ave. to Golfview Court.

Saturday, December 21 (Daytime)

- Collins Tract: Park Ave. to Madison Ave., Horner Ave. to Denby Ave.
- Pennwood: Leslie Ave. to 46th St., Rt. 130 to Chestnut Ave.
- Hillcrest: Norwood Ave. to Hillcrest Ave., Rt. 130 to River Rd.
- North Merchantville/Baldwin's Run: Hollinshed Ave. to 36th St., Rt. 130 to Westfield Ave.
- Delaware Gardens: Hillcrest Avenue to 36th St., Westfield Ave. to Bannard Ave.

Monday, December 23 (Evening)

- Delair, Bridgeview: John Tipton Blvd. to Derosse Ave., Union Ave. to Adams Ave.
- Morrisville: Pleasant Ave. to Forrest Ave., Derosse Ave. to Rt. 90.

Pennsauken Holds Third Annual Holiday Lights Contest

Pennsauken Township would like to recognize the very best in holiday decorations throughout town. As you get ready to do your best Clark Griswold impersonations, there could be a reward for your efforts this year!

A team of light seekers will be dispatched in their Rudolph-drawn sleighs to locate the most impressive expressions of Christmas spirit the town has to offer. To have your decorated home considered for this year's contest, complete the online form located at the Township's web site, twp.pennsauken.nj.us, by Friday, Dec. 13, and your home will be added to the list.

Official judging will occur between the hours of 7:00-9:00 p.m. on Dec. 16 and 17. Each judging team will perform

"street view" evaluations of your home for creativity, holiday spirit, and general appeal. If you don't have the brightest house in town, don't worry; all types of décor will be considered, from nostalgic to Griswold or religious to detailed. All entries are welcome. A first, second, and third place winner will be chosen, as well as up to three runners up. Photos of the winning homes will be printed in the January edition of All Around Pennsauken; all houses considered for this competition will be included in both an interactive online map so that residents can enjoy the local light displays, as well as a video montage shown on Channel 19.

Help spread the holiday spirit throughout our neighborhoods by decorating your home or visiting those who do. Let's



Pennsauken Township is holding its third annual holiday lights contest. To submit your home for consideration, an easy-to-use online form is available at twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

celebrate and reward the efforts of the many Griswolds among us!

Christmas Events

Merchantville Holiday Parade And Tree Lighting

Merchantville holds its annual Holiday Parade and Tree Lighting on Friday, Dec. 6. The opening ceremony begins at 6:45 p.m. at Centre St. and Park Ave. with musical performances by local school choirs. The parade itself begins at Maple and Hamilton avenues. For more information, visit <http://merchantvillenj.gov>.

Christmas Bazaar

Saint Peter's annual Christmas Bazaar will be held on Friday, Dec. 6 from 4:00

to 9:00 p.m.; as well as Saturday, Dec. 7, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Pastor's Hall, 43 W. Maple Ave., Merchantville. Featuring delicious food, wonderful vendors, great silent auction baskets, sweet baked goods, and a game section for the kids. For more information, visit www.stpeter.school.org.

Santa Paws

Pennsauken Animal Hospital, 6717 N. Crescent Blvd., is hosting a "Santa Paws" event on Saturday, Dec. 7 from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Bring your family and pets and

get their photo taken with Santa Paws! A \$10 donation gets you a digital photo, goodie bag, and refreshments. Call (856) 662-4450 for more information.

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long

First Presbyterian Church of Merchantville, 10 W. Maple Ave., Merchantville, is hosting a Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long on Saturday, Dec. 21, at 2:00 p.m. Immediately following, there will be crafts for children, refreshments, and a visit with Santa. For more information, call (856) 662-6252.

Christkindlmarkt Winter Craft Bazaar Held December 7

On Saturday, Dec. 7, Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd., will be the site of the Christkindlmarkt Winter Craft Bazaar. This event, sponsored by the Pennsauken School District, is free of charge to attend.

At 9:30 a.m., children both big and small can enjoy a breakfast with the Grinch! From 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., at-

tendees will enjoy a relaxing morning of holiday shopping with unique vendors, including jewelry, bath and beauty products, baked goods, and other specialty items. The event also features children's activities with crafts, sing-a-longs, and games. In addition, there will special performances by PHS Concert Choir and the cast of "Disney, Frozen Jr."

O' Christmas Tree...

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

A lot of family traditions include getting a live Christmas tree. And you can definitely find them right here in town.

This time of year, a lot of brick and mortar establishments branch out to sell a variety of live Christmas trees. Such businesses include Penn Florist, 5451 Route 38, (856) 662-0088; A&J Landscape Supply and Garden Center, 2955 Haddonfield Rd., (856) 356-2083; as well as the Mower Shop, 7745 Maple Ave,

(856) 662-8880.

Christmas tree lots are also open for business. Every year in town, you'll find one on Cove Rd., right by Inglesby and Sons Funeral Home, as well as on Rt. 130 South, by Howard Hill Furniture.

Prices vary from place to place, but trees usually start around \$30 or so and work their way up, depending on size and type. Be sure to do your homework, and you'll find the best tree for your need and budget right here in Pennsauken.

WinterFest Returns To Cooper River Park

Cooper River Park has once again transformed into a winter wonderland with tasty treats and family fun! WinterFest Ice Skating at Cooper River is open Thursday through Sunday, now through Friday, Feb. 17. WinterFest Ice Skating at Cooper River is presented by the Camden County Board of Freeholders.

New this year, WinterFest will include more family fun, with arcade games in the heated tent and outdoor games for families to enjoy when they are off the ice.

WinterFest is located in Cooper River Park on the corner of Cuthbert Blvd. and Park Drive, behind the Crown Plaza Hotel. Hours of operation are Thursdays, 4:00 to 9:00 p.m.; Fridays, 4:00 to 10:00 p.m.; Saturdays, noon to 10:00 p.m.; and Sundays, noon to 9:00 p.m. For closures due to inclement weather, please visit [Facebook.com/SkateWinterFest](https://www.facebook.com/SkateWinterFest). For pricing, upcoming events, and more information, visit CamdenCounty.com/Winterfest.



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Penn Queen Diner Keeps Tradition, Adds Fresh Ideas Under New Owners

By Judith Kristen, AAP Columnist

The new kid on the block is a superbly “renewed” kid on the block.

Welcome one and all to the “new” Penn Queen Diner, now under the management of owners, Brad and Kim Horwitz. Brad and Kim hit the ground running with the best of both worlds: new ways of giving the finest and most enjoyable of diner experiences to their patrons, while retaining the very best from decades of proven excellence by chefs, wait staff, and welcoming hosts, plus, additional quality-service personnel recently welcomed into the new Penn Queen staff family. And you will feel welcome there, too!

For starters, with over four dozen different breakfasts to choose from, you will find whatever pleases your palette, from familiar full breakfast favorites – the main staple of all diners – to newer, updated additions, all that will have you coming back for more on a regular basis.

From 3:00 to 9:00 p.m. daily, try the newest Petite Specials that have been introduced to an already popular list of smaller meals; and the prices and selections for the Penn Queen’s every day lunch specials, which run from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., are certain to be crowd pleasers.

Desserts will surely not only be enjoyed after your meal, because you’ll def-

initely want to be taking some home with you to share. Yes, they are that good!

Then, tack on to all that, a new, stunning, 85” television screen has just been added to the comfortable bar area in the back of the dining room. Check out the updated tavern menu there to find sliders, chicken wings, steak fries, and a host of America’s most popular of finger foods for all to delight in, either in that special bar area, or throughout the rest of the Penn Queen.

Along with the plusses all diners strive to attain, owners Brad and Kim are also going the extra mile by creating community experiences, and giving back to our Pennsauken area. Please call and talk to Kim about your charity event. Special breakfasts, lunches, or dinners will be available for your sports teams, Scouting organizations, Friends of the Pennsauken

Library, Women’s Clubs, business luncheons, etc., along with those extra special celebrations, like birthdays, wedding anniversaries, and retirement parties.

And now, Penn Queen can take care of all the particulars for your own special day: balloons, flowers, decorations, and a totally delicious cake baked and personalized especially for your occasion, right there on the premises.

To celebrate the holidays at the Penn Queen Diner, there will be a very special visit from Santa Claus this month! Santa will be at the Penn Queen on Saturday, Dec. 14, as well as Saturday, Dec. 21, from 10:00 a.m. until noon. Photo opportunities for your child, or grandchildren, or you, will be available all throughout Santa’s visit.

So welcome back home to the Penn Queen Diner: rich in tradition, history, and



a Pennsauken presence for over 55 years, now magnificently kicked up several notches by Kim and Brad Horwitz, who welcome one and all with hospitality personified, a thoroughly enjoyable atmosphere, and truly great food, that will keep you coming back again, again, and again.

The Penn Queen Diner is located at 7349 N. Crescent Blvd. in Pennsauken. The diner is open Sunday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.; and from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday. For more information, call (856) 662-1928 or visit PennQueenDiner.com.

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Phase II Of Stonegate At Saint Stephen Accepting Applications

Stonegate at St. Stephen – Phase II has begun accepting applications for occupancy at its newly constructed senior (over 55) affordable apartment building located at 6312 Browning Rd. in Pennsauken.

Consisting of 63 one-bedroom and 5 two-bedroom apartments, Stonegate at St. Stephen – Phase II has convenient access to shopping, transportation, medical services and other amenities that that are important to providing seniors with the opportunity to con-

tinue to live independently as they age. The building features ample community space, together with property management and social service offices. The building is anticipated to meet LEED Gold construction standards. The project is being financed with Low Income Housing Tax Credits awarded by the New Jersey Housing and Mortgage Finance Agency, construction and permanent financing from Wells Fargo Bank and additional funding

from Camden County through the HOME program.

Applications are currently available for weekday pick up from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Diocesan Housing Services Corporation, 1845 Haddon Ave., Camden. Individuals may also call (856) 342-4187 to request applications by mail. Interested parties must meet specific income requirements in order to be considered.

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SENIORCORNER

By Sonny DiSabato,
Senior Citizen Coordinator

Hello fellow seniors.

The Camden County Board of Freeholders present the "Holly Jolly Senior Dance" on Wednesday, Dec. 18, 3:30 to 6:00 p.m., at the Bellmawr Ballroom, lo-

"Holly Jolly Senior Dance" Held On December 18

cated next to the Bellmawr Municipal Building at 29 Lewis Ave., Bellmawr, N.J. Seniors are invited to join in for some light refreshments, live music and an evening of fun.

To register, please call Michael at (856) 216-2170. Pre-registration is a re-

quirement, due to hall setup and caterer food preparation. Names will be checked; if an individual is not on the list, they will be turned away. Attendees are asked to not arrive before 3:15 p.m. No alcoholic beverages are permitted.

Silver Sneakers Program At Kroc Center Offers Free Membership

The Salvation Army Ray and Joan Kroc Corps Community Center in Camden offers free membership to people with Medicare C or D through its Silver Sneakers Program. Seniors interested in learning more about this program can

get information at the welcome desk.

Wishing you health, happiness, and a great holiday season. Please say a prayer for our men and women in the armed services. May they come home safe and soon, especially during this special time of year.

Planning Underway For The One Hundredth Celebration Of The Nineteenth Amendment

August 26, 2020 marks the 100th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted women the right to vote. Organizations and communities throughout the country are preparing to celebrate this important moment in U.S. history.

Pennsauken Township has formed a committee to plan activities that will allow residents to participate in this historic event and is looking for members to help. Presently, the committee has representation from the Township, Girl Scouts, League of Women Voters, Pennsauken Free Public Library, and the

Friends of the Library; however, more members are needed to help with planning activities to celebrate this moment and educate the community. The right to vote did not come easily and required the commitment and sacrifice of dedicated women; we need to honor them by telling their story.

The next meeting of the planning committee will be on Wednesday, Jan. 15, at the Pennsauken Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. For more information, contact Jan at (609) 410-4650 or janwh@aol.com.



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- Art and Craft Activities
- Pet Therapy
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GRAYMATTERS Celebrating What Makes The Holiday Season Special

By Judith Kristen,
AAP Columnist

Well, even though we've all been bombarded by Christmas music since Nov. 1; and Mall store ornaments and decorations since July 1; it hasn't jaded me one single bit. 'TIS THE SEASON! And I love it! Especially now, since it actually IS the season.

I look forward to seeing my flower boxes filled with newly cut evergreens; and above our front window, a gigantic wreath complete with a sparkling bow that beautifully catches the afternoon

sunlight.

I look forward to a night time drive through the neighborhood, Christmas tunes playing in the car, looking at the extra loveliness that takes over homes, churches, and businesses, that also becomes a part of the holiday magic.

I look forward to visiting churches who celebrate this holiday in slightly different ways. Choirs of voices that sing in English, Spanish, German, and Italian. All are one, regardless of the building they're singing in.

Then, there's the baking of cookies, cakes, mailing holiday cards, wrapping

packages, hoping for Christmas Eve snow, and cooking those positively delicious holiday dinners, complete with our favorite desserts and candies.

It's Christmas in the heart that puts the spirit of the holiday in the air; maybe that's why I find the world a bit more gentle and kind during this season.

Our hearts are in a different place – if even for a short while – and it does make a difference.

I wish each and every one of you a beautiful holiday that deeply touches your heart. I also wish you peace and joy, much love and happy hugs, compassion – giving and receiving – and above all, a

childlike appreciation for the small, wondrous sparks of magic that this special part of December always brings.

Let your heart show you the way and you'll find it. It's there. I promise you.

Love, your friend,
~Judy

Recognizing Veterans For Their Service And Sacrifice



On Veterans Day, Pennsauken High School held a special event for local veterans in recognition to their service to our country; there was also a ceremony at the school's Veterans Memorial, which honors those alumni who gave the ultimate sacrifice as a member of the armed forces.



Members of VFW Post 1270 and AMVETS Post 101 held a Veterans Day service and luncheon at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month, in recognition of the ending of World War I and commemoration of Veterans Day.



Pennsauken Lions Club Breaks Eye Screening Record

The Pennsauken Lions Club sight team spent many hours in local elementary schools, holding a record number of eye screenings for children in pre-k to second grade. A total of 972 kids were screened – an increase over last year's total by more than 100. Out of that number, 168 children needed further screening. We are currently working on sending out letters to the parents whose child needs more screening.

Sight Chairman MaryAnne McFarland, whose health precluded her from helping in the schools, would like to thank our sight team members: Joe and

Judy DiAmore, Ely Mateo, Bruce Weaver, Kristin Diaz, Matt McDevitt, Matt Gaskill, and Susan Lacey. If she missed anyone, she apologizes.

Conversations with school nurses have opened us to the opportunity of offering screenings to the entire elementary school next year, which would include third and fourth graders.

On Dec. 1, the Lions held their annual Target shopping trip with children from the Commission of the Blind and Visually Impaired, who each get \$50 to go buy presents for their family members – and sometimes for themselves too. Special thanks to the Pennsauken High

School Leo Club and Haddonfield Lions Club, both of whom help with this event each year.

The Pennsauken Lions Club is looking for new members who would like to be of service to the community. They meet on the first and third Mondays of the month at Macaro's Catering on Westfield Ave. in Pennsauken. Cocktails and appetizers are at 6:00 p.m.; dinner starts at 6:30 p.m.; and the hour-long club meeting follows. If you would like more information about the Lions, contact pennsaukenlionsclub@comcast.net or call (856) 313-7751.

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inSchool

Carson Students “Fall” Into Autumn



As part of their celebration of autumn, students at Carson School made fun scarecrow faces.

Students in Mrs. Ruane's class at Carson School celebrated the start of the fall season by reading fiction and non-fiction books with autumn themes and using these themes throughout the month of October. After reading “Otis and the Scarecrow” by Loren Long, children made scarecrow faces and helped create a story giving instructions on how other children can make their own scarecrows. Students also enjoyed reading “How Many Seeds in a Pumpkin?” by Mar-

garet McNamara and G. Brian Karas. Everyone helped to scoop out pumpkin seeds from their class pumpkin and grouped the seeds using ten frames to count the seeds more easily.

The children at Carson School continued celebrating the fall season by participating in the annual Carson School Halloween parade, attended by families and friends. Carson School is an exciting place to learn and grow!

Hispanic Heritage Month At Phifer



Phifer Middle School held a special event in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. Held each October, Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the contributions Hispanics have made to the growth, vitality and culture in the United States. Phifer's Latin organization, SOL, performed a wonderful assembly for staff and students.

Growing Good Things At Delair

The Delair garden is thriving again this fall! Students were greeted with their very own pumpkin patch when they returned to school this September. They were able to learn about the life cycle of a pumpkin first hand out in our garden.

Students all around the school have taken on even more responsibility this year with planting and watering. We've

planted a variety of cool weather vegetables, such as beets, carrots, peas and radishes, that will be ready to harvest in no time!

Students at Delair have been hard at work, planting and watering the school's garden.



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Phifer Students Compete In STEAM Tank Challenge

This past year, interested students have participated in the New Jersey STEAM Tank Challenge, a competition modeled in-part on the popular TV show "Shark Tank" and organized by the New Jersey School Board Association (NJSBA) and the U.S. Army. According to the NJSBA website, the goal of the competition is to "invent something new, modify an existing product, or identify a situation or real-world problem that needs resolution." The STEAM Tank Challenge requires students to go beyond a standard science fair through the incorporation of product design, marketing, manufacturability, and proposal.

In October, Pennsauken Public School teachers Tracey McSweeney, Breanna Ratkevich, and Sara Allen escorted two Phifer Middle School Teams down to the Atlantic City Convention Center to participate in the STEAM Tank Finals. These two teams were two of 98 finalists chosen out of a total of 500 entries!

The first group, Nick Bonilla, Bang Chiem, Lakya Lassiter, and Nicole Garcia, presented "The Press Vest." The



Two groups of students from Phifer Middle School competed in the STEAM Tank Challenge last October.

students put on a very enthusiastic presentation modeling and explaining their mindset behind "The Press Vest," which would be worn underneath a student's clothing so that they could very inconspicuously activate it in order to decrease anxiety while taking a test or dealing with a confrontation, etc. When the vest is activated, it creates a feeling similar to a weighted blanket that simulates a hug.

The second group, consisting of Madison Reyes, Nhien Dinh, Kaitlyn Thach, Cassandra Nicdao and Fatema Hossain, presented "Bam! Rocking Chair." The team designed a chair that helps students cope with fidgeting in class in a safe way.

The chair allows students to focus and have increased performance in their studies. The students came up with this idea because their classmates were constantly rocking back in their chairs while fidgeting, sometimes resulting in falls and injury.

Both groups impressed the judges with their presentations. And we are proud to announce that "Bam! Rocking Chair" came in sixth place and "The Press Vest" came in 15th place in the middle school level at the STEAM Tank New Jersey State Finals! This is a huge accomplishment and we hope they continue to follow their passion to help others with fidgeting and anxiety issues.

Eighth Graders Enjoy Rowan Engineering Trip

On Oct. 29, eighth grade engineering students were excited to attend a STEAM field trip to Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering at Rowan University. They learned firsthand from Rowan engineering students what it takes to attend college and think like an engineer! The students also learned about the importance of time management and teamwork needed in many college classes. These students were selected based on their grades, class participation, and interest shown in their seventh grade robotics, eighth grade engineering and/or eighth grade science classes.

The day's itinerary included an engineering presentation, a tour of Rowan's engineering campus, a parachute drop, an enthusiastic rocket stomp challenge and a competitive Kahoot challenge to assess what the students learned!

The student fan favorite was absolutely

the parachute experiment! Students were challenged to create a parachute using cardboard, paper, straws, and a cup that would effectively contain marshmallows when being dropped off a 20-foot balcony. The parachute items were assigned a cost. In the end, the student group that created the parachute that would be the lightest, most cost effective, and would hold the most marshmallows after being dropped from a balcony, would be the winning engineering team!

All of the kids were super excited to work with their team, compete against each other, and see everybody's innovative designs. This was truly a trip our future Phifer engineers will remember for a long time. Ms. McSweeney, Ms. Allen, and Ms. Ratkevich are looking forward to future engineering trips to Rowan with new groups of students during marking periods two, three, and four.



Eighth graders from Phifer Middle School enjoyed their trip to the Henry M. Rowan College of Engineering, where they participated in a fun experiment creating parachutes.



PHS Performs "Disney's Frozen Junior"

The talented students of Pennsauken High School's Children's Theatre and acting classes will perform "Disney's Frozen Jr." on December 13 and 14 at Pennsauken High School, 800 Hylton Rd.

"Frozen" is a story of true love and acceptance between sisters; and "Disney's Frozen Jr." expands upon the emotional relationship and journey between Princesses Anna and Elsa. When faced with danger, the two discover their hidden potential and the powerful bond of sisterhood. The show features all of the memorable songs from the animated

film, with music and lyrics by Kristen Anderson-Lopez and Robert Lopez, plus five new songs written for the Broadway production.

Performances will be at the Pennsauken High School auditorium. Friday's show will be at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday's shows will be at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and seniors, and will be available for purchase at the door.

For more information, call (856) 662-8500 x5273.

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PENNSAUKEN SCHOOL NEWS

For further information about the articles or events published in the Pennsauken School News section of "All Around Pennsauken" please contact: **Nicole Roberts, Editor nicole.roberts@pennsauken.net**

YoJo Teaches Important Anti-Bullying Message At Fine

In October, the students and faculty of Fine School hosted YoJo in an assembly entitled "Bully No More!" as a part of their Week of Respect. YoJo, a fuzzy, blue, seven-foot tall creature, is touted as a "living cartoon character" who brings positive messages to elementary schools through his shows. His partner, Phil, put YoJo's actions into words since YoJo does not speak! In "Bully No More!" YoJo brings a face to bullying; and the interactive show teaches students how to react in various bullying situations.

The show featured questions to students, video clips of bullying situations, shouting at YoJo to stop bullying, and it

even offered one student a chance to come on stage and participate in the performance as a bullying victim. At times the show was silly, but the message always communicated that bullying is "not cool!" More importantly, YoJo offered ideas of positive responses to various situations.

While the show and the week dedicated to anti-bullying and respect has passed, YoJo and Phil's words live on in our school and is consistently reaffirmed in our classrooms. At Fine School, we are dedicated to not only fostering academic success, but also making kind and considerate citizens of both Pennsauken and the world at large.



YoJo and Phil visited Fine School to share their entertaining and educational "Bully No More!" presentation with students.

Fabulous Franklin Students Of The Month

In October, 25 fantastic Franklin students were recognized for being September's students of the month. Being a student of the month is a great honor and they celebrated with Mr. Jakubowski, our school counselor. Con-

gratulations to Jayren Lajara, Lilyana Anthony, Bridget Mignano, Alexa Jost, Mariah Wall, Kendall Arneja, Ayishah Hossain, Andrew Love, Hasna Mukhtar, Micheala Norris, Sophie Lympier, Julier Baez, Lucas Mignano, Nyla Sullivan, Eli-

jah Rivers, Jetzaln Duran, Julian Nelson, Skyla Almero, Khassan Plowden, Selenya Hodges, Parker Davis-Schlegel, Abraham Tahuite-Navas, Felix Torres, Syniah Davis, and Ajanay Pierce-Wall.

Celebrating Red Ribbon Week At Delair



Mrs. Radonsky's class celebrating hat day for Red Ribbon Week, the nation's largest and longest-running drug awareness and prevention program.

Showing Pride In Citizenship

Ms. DeMarco's students at Carson learned about our right to vote. Her class had a great time voting for Duck or Farmer John, after they read "Duck for President!"



Franklin Enjoys Fall Fest



Students enjoyed playing ring toss during Franklin's first-ever Fall Fest.

In October, Franklin School celebrated its first PBIS event: our first-ever Fall Fest. Students had to earn over 30 Penn Bucks to attend the event, and we had over 150 students attend! Fall Fest had many different events the students could participate in that were fall related, including pin the pumpkin on the vine, leaf rubbing, fall coloring pages, pumpkin racing, apple tossing, candy corn ring toss, and more!

Carson Holds Parent Involvement Night

At last month's Parent Involvement Night at Carson School, parents and guardians attended an I-Ready information session. The I-Ready assessment is used as a screening tool that the students take three times a year, to measure student growth. Parent home reports were discussed and the parents were able to ask questions of the facilitators.

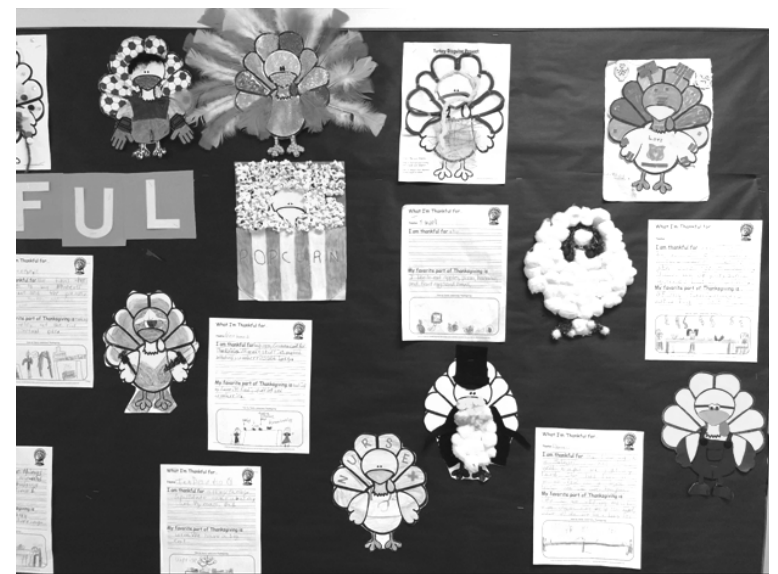
Afterwards, everyone had fun playing Family Book Bingo. Books were awarded as prizes to our winners. All students who participated, whether they had "Bingo" or not, were able to pick a book to take



Family Book Bingo was a fun activity held during Carson's Parent Involvement Night.

home. It was a fun and informative night for parents, students and teachers.

Turkeys In Disguise At Carson

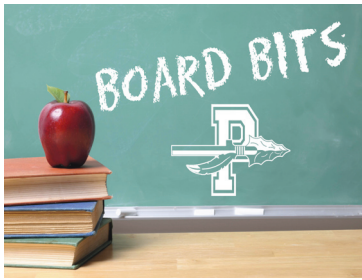


Carson second graders were asked to disguise a turkey so that it would make it through Thanksgiving. Each student was given a turkey picture to decorate with their families. We have very creative students! Some examples are a Minion Turkey, a Popcorn Bag Turkey, a Ninja Turkey, and even a Peacock Turkey. Great job everyone!

Delair Celebrates September's Students Of The Month



Congratulations to Delair's students of the month for September!



By the Pennsauken Board of Education: Nick Perry, President; Diane Johnson, Vice President; Michael Bortnowski; Michael Hurley; Maria James; Samer John Jarbough-Rafeh; Scott La Vine; Orlando Viera; and JoAnn Young

Early childhood through the years of adolescence is a significant time in a child's development. During this period, children gain the cognitive skills to make decisions and gain the thought processes to become more socially aware of their surroundings. This can be seen through interactions with their peers in the public school systems, as they build relationships, gain their self-esteem, and begin to

Pennsauken School District Focuses On Positive Childhood Development

take pleasure in community activity.

Mental Health America states, "This is a sensitive period in brain development, as children are more receptive to receiving new information and internalizing experiences."

During this time of change, it is essential that children have a stable home and education system that supports a student's needs during a time of vulnerability. Children at this age also can have intense experiences that may adversely affect their abilities both at school and in the home. The following highlights several factors that play into a child's healthy development.

Nutrition

According to Mental Health America, a review of 12 studies examined the impact of diet and on children's mental health. Having a well-balanced diet was associated with better mental health in

children in multiple studies; those with high levels of unhealthy food intake reported higher levels of anxiety, risky behaviors, and increased aggression towards others. A healthy, balanced diet is crucial to healthy brain development and emotional stability.

Safety

A child's safety inside their home, school, and in the community has a direct impact on their behavioral health and cognitive function. Adverse childhood experiences are instances that negatively impact a child's development in adolescence and early adulthood. Unsafe environments, such as substance abuse in the home, physical abuse, emotional neglect, and bullying, are all factors that are considered adverse childhood experiences that need intervention. Safety policies and programs that are correctly implemented

bring emotional calm and reassurance that there is emotional support during a time of change.

Family Involvement

Children and adolescents are exposed to a variety of different experiences outside the home such as in public areas, schools, recreational programs, and after school centers. Increased family involvement and emotional support during the peak times of childhood development provide reinforcement of positive behaviors, while also providing intervention to prevent adverse childhood experiences.

District Initiatives Promote Positive Childhood Development

Pennsauken Board of Education and the Superintendent values the need for early childhood intervention systems in the schools and understands the importance of providing each child the indi-

vidual attention needed to thrive in early adulthood. Through the exceptional efforts and hard work from the school administration, the Pennsauken School District was able to secure grant funding from the U.S. Department of Education for \$1.6 million that will address the issue of mental health in the public school system. This grant will include a partnership with Rowan University, who will be playing a primary role in increasing counseling services for students, as well as act as the referral resource to clinicians, psychologists, and licensed clinical social workers. Using an evidence-based model for behavioral health in children, the Pennsauken School District will be able to have the resources present to foster the most positive learning environment for children, while also intervening to decrease adverse childhood experiences.

Pennsauken Firefighters Visit Intermediate School



Members of the Pennsauken Fire Department visited the Intermediate School to participate in the annual Fire Prevention Week assembly. Firefighters discussed fire safety and tips; students and staff enjoyed a tour of the fire engine; and had the opportunity to hear the siren. We thank the firefighters for their service and commitment to safety.

District And Food Bank Host Monthly Food Distribution

The Pennsauken School District, in partnership with the Food Bank of South Jersey, has started a monthly food distribution. Our first distribution event was held last month and will continue throughout the school year.

Each food distribution is held from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on one Saturday each month at Pennsauken High School,

800 Hylton Rd. This is for families in Pennsauken who need additional food resources. There is no cost and all are welcome.

Upcoming Food Distribution Dates

- Dec. 7
- Jan. 4
- Feb. 1
- March 7
- April 4
- May 2
- June 6



The Pennsauken School District and the Food Bank of South Jersey are hosting a monthly food distribution at Pennsauken High School.

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Air Force JROTC Show Students To Stand Up And Speak Out

Members of Pennsauken High School's Air Force JROTC visited the Intermediate School to perform a skit and to talk to students about bullying and how it affects people. The message was for students to stand up and speak out against

others who engage in the acts of bullying. The students were very receptive to their guests. The JROTC members spend the remainder of their time conversing and mingling with students. We look forward to another visit from them!



Pennsauken High School's Air Force JROTC performed skits for Intermediate students to highlight the importance of standing up to bullying.

Air Force JROTC Post Colors At Veterans Ceremony



Our Air Force JROTC was on hand for the posting of colors during Camden County's Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Island at Cooper River Park. We thank all veterans for their dutiful service to our great country!

All Around Pennsauken is now on Facebook



Visit our page for the latest on upcoming events and community news or hit the "Like" button and get updates on your wall.

Preschoolers Enjoy Visit To Zimmerman's Country Market



Mrs. Barbara's pre-k class from Franklin visited Zimmerman's Country Market and enjoy a variety of fun activities like pumpkin picking!

Boss's Day At Delair



Delair celebrated Boss's Day by having our students recite a poem dedicated to Principal Lawrence! We love Mrs. Lawrence and her passion for our students and staff!

Visit our Web Site www.pennsauken.net

Meet our Board of Education
Find information on our schools
Visit the School Calendar
See Sports Schedules & more!
Read Home & School Newsletter

Moore Chosen For All Star Marching Band



Congratulations to Abigail Moore, who was chosen to be a member of the Tournament of Bands All Star Marching Band. Abby represented Pennsauken High School in this year's Thanksgiving Day Parade in Philadelphia!

Sixth Grade Social Held At Big League Dreams



This year's sixth grade social was held at Big League Dreams in Medford. Students had a great time at this family entertainment center, playing wiffle ball, dodge ball, gaga ball, and laser tag.

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ONE YEAR'S ISSUES ARE AVAILABLE

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS Pennsauken Residents Honored At Veterans Day Observance

In conjunction with Veterans Day, the Camden County Board of Freeholders honored over a dozen local veterans for their service to their country at a special ceremony at Veterans Island on Cooper River.

"From World War I to the global war on terror, Camden County Military Service Medal recipients have bravely defended our country out of duty and patriotism," said Freeholder Melinda Kane, liaison to the Camden County Office of Veterans Affairs. "The Freeholder Board celebrates these American heroes, and sends its deepest thanks to all who have served and sacrificed for the protection of our democracy."

On Nov. 10, the Camden County Military Service Medal was presented to 18 Camden County veterans. Among their ranks were three men from Pennsauken: Duane B. Buck, Francis J. Duffield, Jr.,

and Louis H. Priestly.

A member of the United States Army during the Vietnam War, Specialist Four Duane B. Buck was on active duty from 1967 to 1969. His last duty assignment and major command was Headquarters in Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 2nd Armor Division, Fort Hood, Texas. His decorations and citations include the National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze service stars; Vietnam Campaign Medal; and the Camden County Vietnam War Medal.

Radioman Third Class Francis J. Duffield, Jr., was in the United States Navy during the Vietnam War, serving from 1965 to 1968. His last duty assignment and major command was with the



Buck

U.S.S. Richard E. Kraus DD-849. Duffield's decorations and citations include the National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal with three bronze service stars; Vietnam Campaign Medal; and the Camden County Vietnam War Medal.

Louis H. Priestly, Electronics Technician Second Class for the United States Navy, served in the Vietnam War from 1968 to 1974. His last duty assignment and major command was the U.S.S. Midway CVA-41. His decorations and citations include the National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Meritorious Unit Certificate; Vietnam Campaign Medal; and Camden County Vietnam War Medal.

Veteran's Island contains six memorial



Duffield

plaques and meditative areas honoring Camden County residents killed in World War I, World War II, Korea, Vietnam and during the Desert Shield/Desert Storm battle. A sixth section is dedicated to the Global War on Terror that began with the attack on the World Trade Center on September



Priestly

ber 11, 2001. Each memorial area consists of a paved semi-circle with a plaque, two benches and landscaping. The island also features American flags flanked by service flags that fly on Veterans Island to honor veterans of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard and Merchant Marines. An architectural highlight is the American Flag Paved Plaza along the walkway around the perimeter.

Dr. Dickey To Retire, Dr. Skinner Takes Over Practice

Dr. John T. Dickey, DDS has served residents of Pennsauken and the local community for the last 45 years. He has made the decision to retire and is excited to have Dr. Gregory C. Skinner



Dr. Gregory C. Skinner

take over his practice. "Dr. John T. Dickey, Sandy & Beth, would like to welcome Dr. Gregory C. Skinner, Nadia, Lisa, Marci and Cheryl to our practice," according to a statement on the practice's Facebook page. "They will be joining us as Dr. Dickey is ready to re-

tire and enjoy the next chapter of his life."

Dr. Gregory C. Skinner, DDS, graduated from the New York University College of Dentistry in 1993 and has been in practice for over 25 years. The practice will be renamed as Omega Dental Care; and Dr. Skinner will provide comprehensive dentistry, including extractions, root canal treatment, and dental implants.

On Friday, Dec. 13, there will be a retirement party at the office, located at 7535 Maple Ave., from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. Open to the public, attendees will be able to congratulate Dr. Dickey for his many years of service, as well as meet Dr. Skinner and the rest of the staff.

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Making Pennsauken Merry And Bright

By Tracey Howarth,
Pennsauken Township

The best part of the holidays is spending time with your favorite people making memories. You have the traditional holiday activities, like baking cookies with the kids; decorating your tree; shopping with your friends; and all sorts of holiday parties and celebrations.

A few citizens shared some of the things they are looking forward to doing this holiday season. Things like driving around town looking at all of the holiday decorations or going to the holiday parade. A couple of my personal favorites were

dancing in front of the Christmas tree with their favorite person; a couple of them planned on seeing Disney during the holiday season for the first time.

No matter what your favorite holiday traditions, this time of year brings the best out in all of us. We spend hours putting up all the Christmas lights and decorations, so our properties look and feel festive and bright. It's the best time of year to do a clean sweep of our properties so that when people drive down our streets and roads, they see all the beautiful sights. They can tell how much time and care our residents and business

owners took in getting their properties ready for the holiday season. So let's all pull together, put our best selves forward and show our fellow residents and passers by how beautiful our town can look at this time of year.

Take your favorite person by the hand and dance in front of the tree, make some memories. If for some reason you are unable to be with them, let them know they are in your heart and thoughts and as soon as they can, you'll be there to dance.

We wish everyone a wonderful and safe holiday season.

Pennsauken First Responders Holding "Battle Of The Badges" Blood Drive

For the second year in a row, Pennsauken's police officers, firefighters, and EMTs are competing to recruit the most blood donors for an American Red Cross "Battle of the Badges" Blood Drive. The winning team gets bragging rights; but the whole community benefits by gaining life saving blood transfusions. Approximately 32,000 pints of blood are used each day in the United States. Just one pint of donated blood can help save as many as three people's lives.

The blood drive will be held on Thursday, Jan. 23, 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800

Haddonfield Rd. Appointments are preferred; donors can sign up online by visiting RedCrossBlood.org and using

the "Battle of the Badges" sponsor code. All donors will receive a "Battle of the Badges" t-shirt as a thank you.

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*Wishing All A Happy
and Safe Holiday Season!*



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pumping stations.

The homeowner owns and therefore responsible for the operation and maintenance of the lateral line from their dwelling up to and including the connection to the main line.

The rules and regulations of the Pennsauken Sewerage Authority require a back flow prevention device commonly referred to as a "back check valve" be installed whenever plumbing fixtures are located below street level

such as in the basement. PSA strongly recommends all our customers have a back check valve installed to prevent contamination in the event of a main line stoppage.

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MPWC WATERLINES

The Commissioners and staff of The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission would like to wish you a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Please note that we will be closed on December 25 and 26 for Christmas, and on New Year's Day, Wednesday, January 1, 2020.

A Reminder To Our Senior And Disabled Customers

With the end of the year quickly approaching, remember to submit your enrollment form for your 2020 discount! **Please note that even if you are currently receiving a discount, you must apply EACH year to continue receiving your discount. Now is a good time to collect any information you may need for your application.** Stop by our administrative headquarters on Westfield Ave. in Pennsauken to pick up an application. You may also print a copy of the enrollment form by visiting our website at www.mpwc.com. Our customer support representatives will be happy to assist you in completing your enrollment form. Your enrollment form requires your block and lot number, so please bring along a copy of your tax bill.

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The Merchantville-Pennsauken Water Commission meets on the second Thursday of each month at 4:00 p.m.

These meetings are open to the public and are held at 6751 Westfield Avenue, Pennsauken.

Questions about your service?

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Adopt-A-Hydrant

If you've signed up to participate in our Adopt-A-Hydrant program, remember to send us your pictures! If you're clearing your adopted hydrant of snow or other debris, snap a photo so that we can share it on our Facebook page!

If you're interested in learning about the MPWC's Adopt-A-Hydrant program, please visit the MPWC website at www.mpwc.com or e-mail us at hydrants@mpwc.com.

Individuals can participate by adopting a hydrant nearest their homes. This is also a great opportunity for scouts, civic groups or individuals looking to earn community service hours.



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ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT

REPORTING YEAR 2018



Presented By



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Our annual Water Quality Report is viewable at MPWC.com. Printed copies are also available at our offices on Westfield Ave.

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Mr. Edward Brennan, Asst. Secretary/Treasurer

Pennsauken Historical Society Hosts Annual Meeting, Guest Speaker

By Frank Sinatra, AAP Editor

Last month, the Pennsauken Historical Society held its annual meeting at the town's historic Griffith Morgan House, both to hold elections of the organization's officers and to hear from a special guest speaker.

Prior to the start of the official proceedings, members had an opportunity to view the findings of Mike Burns, who has used a metal detector along the property of the Burrough-Dover House. Also Mr. Mayfield from the 2020 U.S. Census was on hand to discuss the opportunities available, as the Census Bureau is looking to hire as many as 3,000 part-time workers.

Several officers were elected to serve

for two year terms, with other members being appointed to various roles: Robert Fisher-Hughes, president; Michael McKenna, vice president; Genevieve Lumia, secretary; Janet Fisher-Hughes, treasurer; Mayra Alonzo, membership chair; Maryann Carney, curator; Theodore Breisacher, head of building and grounds; LuAnn Hill, volunteer chair, as well as historian and archivist; and Nicole Kuehne, publicity chair. Also, John and Joan Weber, as well as George Martin, were appointed as directors at large.

Robert Fisher-Hughes presented a plaque to John Weber, recognizing him as president emeritus of the Pennsauken Historical Society, for his many years of service to the organization. Weber ex-

pressed his sincere appreciation for the gesture, noting that helping promote Pennsauken's rich history is something he truly values.

Many years ago, Lew Gorman explored the Griffith Morgan House with his father, back when the home was abandoned and long before members of the Pennsauken community restored the structure. He presented the Pennsauken Historical Society with a very unique item: a fake brick that was once a part of the Griffith Morgan House's hearth; it was used to hide a key, which was still attached to the back of the "brick" by a nail. The organization thanked Lew and his family for safeguarding the item and promised to proudly display it with the rest of the home's memorabilia.

Members enjoyed a highly engaging presentation from Richard Keiser, Ph.D., a retired instructor from the Community College of Philadelphia, who spoke on the topic of women's suffrage. Dr. Keiser spoke of how progressive New Jersey initially was in this cause. In 1776, New Jersey's state constitution gave the vote to unmarried women who owned more than \$250 worth of property; and in 1790, the state enfranchised all adult women. Unfortunately, following the trend of other states in the union, New Jersey re-

scinded female suffrage in 1807. In the many years that followed, a series of advances, setbacks, conflicts, and growing public pressure led to the 19th Amendment to the Constitution being adopted in August 26, 1920.

Volunteers are needed to help make Pennsauken's history come alive through the efforts of the Pennsauken Historical Society. To learn about becoming a member, call (856) 486-9561 or e-mail pennsaukenhistoricalsociety@gmail.com.

Annual Angel Tree Program *continued from page 1*

also greatly appreciated.

PMAC Angel Tree Collection Event

The Pennsauken-Merchantville Area Chamber of Commerce is hosting a holiday happy hour to help add to this year's Angel Tree donations on Thursday, Dec. 12, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Pennsauken Country Club, 3800 Haddonfield Rd. The event features a complimentary

buffet, drink specials, holiday music, and pictures with Santa. All attendees are asked to bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Angel Tree program. To RSVP for the event, e-mail pmac1team@gmail.com or call (856) 438-0833.

For more information, or to volunteer for the Angel Tree program, contact Pennsauken's Parks and Recreation Department at (856) 665-1000, ext. 151 or e-mail emartz@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.



At the annual meeting of the Pennsauken Historical Society, members voted in their new board members and heard from Richard Keiser, Ph.D., who spoke about the women's suffrage movement in America.

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inBooks

PENNSAUKEN FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY

December kicks off both the holidays and the winter season! It's a great time to warm up to some great books and movies that are perfect for this time of year.

"A Christmas Carol" is a timeless classic; and the Pennsauken Free Public Library offers multiple ways to enjoy Charles Dickens' masterpiece, from the novel itself, to a variety of movie adaptations. There's even an audio book!

There are also plenty of modern classics in the Library's DVD catalog, including "Elf," "Love Actually," and... ahem... "Bad Santa."

For everyone's favorite caroler, there are plenty of songs to sing along to, with CDs filled with holiday classics, new takes on old standards, and more.

For the kids, there are plenty of selec-

Check Out Some Holiday Fun At The Pennsauken Library

tions for them to read and watch in the Children and Young Adult section. You'll find holiday stories with a variety of favorites, including "Alvin and the Chipmunks," "Dora the Explorer," "Elmo," "The Muppets," and "VeggieTales." You'll also find plenty of the Rankin-Bass classics, including "Rudolph The Red-nosed Reindeer," "Santa Claus Is Comin' To Town," and "Frosty The Snowman."

And you won't just find things for Christmas. For those looking forward to Hanukkah, you can find a variety of books, including "Celebrate Hanukkah," "The Hanukkah Mice," and "Moishe's Miracle: A Hanukkah Story." For Kwanzaa, there's "Seven Candles For Kwanzaa," "It's Kwanzaa Time," "Crafts for Kwanzaa," and more.

And if you're looking for something to do on winter break when the kids are out of school, be sure to check out the

Library's museum pass program, which enables patrons to visit several area museums, providing opportunities for learning, leisure, cultural enrichment, and fun. And it's for FREE! Just be sure to check

your passes out in plenty of time. These are in high demand and the Library's closed on Dec. 24 and 25. You can find more information on this program by visiting PennsaukenLibrary.org.

December Library Events

- **Holiday Accordion Concert** – Thursday, Dec. 5; 7:00 p.m. Enjoy the songs of the season, as performed on the jolliest instrument, the accordion!
- **Chair Yoga** – Fridays, Dec. 6, 13, & 20; 12:30 p.m. Stretch gently and safely for an hour with instructor Michelle Carlino. To register, call (856) 665-5959 ext. 3, or stop by the Circulation Desk.
- **Friends of the Pennsauken Library Meeting** – Wednesday, Dec. 11; 7:00 p.m. Join the Friends for their monthly business meeting.

movement class focusing on coordination, rhythm and translating music to movement.

- **Baby Ballet** – Sunday, Dec. 8; 2:30 to 3:00 p.m. For ages 2-5. An introductory dance class to develop skills in body awareness, flexibility, and following directions.

- **Books and Beaks** – Thursday, Dec. 12; 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. For new readers ages 6 and up. Practice reading skills in a relaxed environment with a certified therapy chicken. Registration is required. Contact the Youth Services department at (856) 665-5959 ext. 6, pennsaukenys-librarian@gmail.com, or stop by the Youth Services desk to register.

- **Yoga Storytime** – Sunday, Dec. 15; 2:00 to 2:45 p.m. For ages 3-8. Explore stories and songs through basic yoga movements. Registration is required. Contact the Youth Services department at (856) 665-5959 ext. 6, pennsaukenys-librarian@gmail.com.

So whatever – and however – you celebrate this time of year, the staff of the Pennsauken Free Public Library wishes you and yours a very happy and joyous holiday season.

librarian@gmail.com, or stop by the Youth Services desk to register.

- **Kids' Paint and Sip** – Friday, Dec. 27; 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. For ages 6-12. Join instructor Sharon Sayers from Paint-a-Treasure for an afternoon of creativity and fun! We'll provide project material, and of course, snacks. Registration and a \$5 participation cost are required. To register, please call Circulation at (856) 665-5959 ext. 3, or stop by the Circulation desk.
- **K-Pop and Cake Pops** – Thursday, Dec. 26; 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. Ages 12 and up. Decorate – and eat – cake pops while enjoying some K-pop music. No registration required.
- **Noon Year's Eve Party** – Monday, Dec. 30; 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Too young to stay up until midnight? Join us for a daytime celebration of the coming New Year! As we countdown to noon, we will have music, dancing, crafts, and snacks.

EVENTS FOR KIDS AND TEENS

- **Make and Take Craft** – Thursdays, Dec. 5 & 12; 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. All ages. Each week, drop in and make a craft here at the Library, or take one home with you for later. Crafts for children of all ages will be available.
- **Toddler Movement** – Sunday, Dec. 8; 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. For ages 2-5. A creative

Santa Visits Library On December 18



Santa Claus will be visiting the Pennsauken Free Public Library, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., on Wednesday, Dec. 18, at 6:00 p.m., for "Selfies with Santa!" Bring your camera or phone for pictures with Saint Nick. There will be stories and crafts too! Stop by the Youth Services department at the Library for more details.

Financial Analyst.

Apollo East, LLC. Pennsauken, NJ

Email Resume to
ApolloEastllc@gmail.com

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www.pennsaukenlibrary.org

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Fri. & Sat.: 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Sunday: 10:00 – 5:00 p.m.

CLOSED: Monday, Dec. 2 for staff training
Tuesday, Dec. 24 and Wednesday, Dec. 25, for Christmas;
and Tuesday, Dec. 31, and Wednesday, Jan. 1, for New Year's.

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GOING GREEN The Twelve Days Of Christmas Plants

By Kathleen Harvey,
AAP Columnist

Christmas trees, evergreen boughs, poinsettias, and Christmas cactus are the plants of the season, livening our homes with wonderful fragrance and pops of color. Of these, the Christmas cactus can be the longest-lived, providing a greater bounty of flowers with each successive year. Some people have a green thumb getting these cacti to grow and thrive, but all too many of these plants that are either received as gifts or purchased for their cheerful seasonal color, languish and eventually die.

In nature, Schlumbergera flowers range from pale to deep pink and occasionally into red. Through hybridization, holiday cactus colors range from almost pure white through various shades of pink, peach, and deep red; while many are bicolored pink, or red with white. A few cultivars are available that are lovely shades of yellow or gold.

When caring for holiday cactus plants, it's important to understand the conditions in which the plants grow in nature. Holiday cacti are true cactus. They are found in the mountainous jungles of Brazil, at elevations of 3,000 – 5,000 ft. They get cool temperatures at night but never cold. Minimum temperatures need to be around 55-60°F; they cannot tolerate frost.

Christmas cactus grow as epiphytic plants, with their roots anchoring them to branches high up in forest trees, or sometimes growing in shady areas of cliffs or rocky outcrops. They do not tolerate prolonged periods of strong, direct sunlight, but rather prefer bright indirect light. My Christmas cactus live outdoors

in the summer, on a patio table in the backyard out of direct sun. Slugs and snails love holiday cactus; if growing your plants outdoors, keep the pots off the ground. Indoors, they grow well in a bright window.

Another consideration is water. In nature, they are growing in locations with perfect drainage, hanging from tree branches or rocky cliffs. In the rain forest, they receive frequent rains during the wet season, but the water runs off rapidly and the roots do not sit in waterlogged soil. Frequent waterings are fine if the soil mix is very well drained.

Big box stores carry premixed cactus and succulent mix that is adequate for these plants. In addition, gentle air movement is important to keep plants healthy. Constant moisture in a poorly drained soil will promote the development of root-rotting fungi. If the plants are sagging and not growing, even though the soil is moist, check to see if it has a healthy root system. If not, take some cuttings to start a new plant and use a better-draining soil mix. Plants are easily propagated from stem cuttings. Individual "joints" can be used. However, cuttings of two to three joints long will provide stronger plants. Let the cuttings dry in a shady location for two to three days, and then put them in a rooting medium such as perlite, or into a well draining soil mix. Keep the medium moist but not saturated. Rooting should take place in two to three weeks and new growth should start. New plants can be started any time of the year. However, better results will be achieved in late spring through summer. A worth-

while practice is to root a few new cuttings every three to five years and keep a couple of healthy young plants on hand in case the original plant succumbs.

A really old, large Christmas cactus in full bloom is a marvel – hundreds of

brightly colored flowers can be open at the same time. It is not unusual to see plants in 12-15" diameter pots, with a canopy spread of nearly three feet. These plants can be decades old and literally passed down from generation to gener-

ation, which is a great way to share the joy of plants with family members over multiple generations, providing sentimental value in addition to their seasonal beauty.

Happy holidays!



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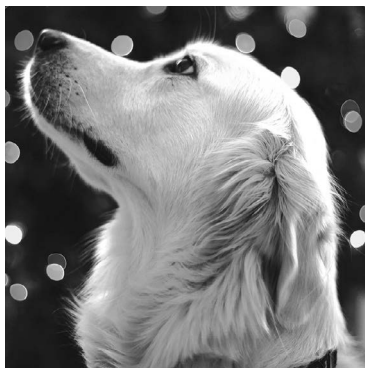
To Give Or Not To Give: Be Sure When Making A Pet A Present

By Nancy Welsh, Pennsauken Township Animal Control Officer

A new pet can fill a home with love, happiness and excitement, but it also means a lot of work. There are good and bad things to consider before deciding to give a dog or cat as a holiday gift or birthday present. It can be tempting to give a cute, cuddly pet as a gift. Yet, along with the precious purr or the fluffy tail that never stops wagging, there comes a commitment to another life for the next 10, 15, or even 20 years. Unlike most gifts, puppies and kittens cannot be returned. Before you go to the pet store, breeder, or shelter, there are some things you should consider.

Never give a pet as a surprise. Pets are a wonderful addition to life, yet not everyone has the time, energy or money to care for one. You may think a friend or family member is lonely and the pet will be good company, but you need to know if this is something the person wants and can handle at this time.

Avoid impulsive decisions regarding the addition of a pet. Adding a pet to your home or to someone else's is not something you should do on a whim. This is a decision the whole family should be in on and in agreement about. For example, if the kids are asking for a dog and



Pets are often given as gifts during the holidays. But there are a few things to consider before surprising your family or loved one with a furry friend.

parents agree this is a good time, then that could work. Parents should know that no matter how many times the kids promise they will pick up the poop and some of the other not so glamorous duties of taking care of a new pet, the duties often become the responsibility of mom and dad. It is not fair to bring a dog or cat into your home and then turn it into the shelter because the children are not keeping the promises they made.

According to the ASPCA, 3.9 million dogs are taken to animal shelters in the U.S. every year; 20 percent of them are relinquished because their families don't

have enough time for a pet or can't handle behavior issues that come up. If you are considering giving a dog or cat as a gift, you should be 100 percent sure that your gift won't become part of that 20 percent.

Here are some ideas to consider if you would like to give a friend or loved one a pet, or the family decides they would like to add a pet. Consider giving a pet starter kit as a gift under the tree. Create a basket filled with toys, treats, leashes, and collars; a litter box; a book about the care of the pet; and other necessities for the type of pet that is wanted. Think of it as a "surprise promise." You are saying, "Guess what? We are getting a pet!" You will have all the resources you need to bring the pet home. This makes it a planned gift.

For a friend or relative, you could give a card with a gift certificate from the local animal shelter that says you will pay the adoption fee for a new pet when they decide the time is right. This way, people can choose the dog or cat they want, one that they feel a bond or connection with.

Pets are great gifts for people; making it less of a surprise dramatically increases these animals' chances that have found their fur-ever home.

Have a very happy holiday season!

Rotary Provides Dictionaries To Third Graders



Third graders from Saint Cecilia School pose with their brand new dictionaries, courtesy of the Rotary Club of Pennsauken-Merchantville.

The Rotary Club of Pennsauken-Merchantville delivered dictionaries to all of the third grade students in Pennsauken and Merchantville, including all public and private schools.

Rotary is a service organization that has as one of its core principles to promote understanding throughout the world. Rotary believes that this can be accomplished through education and promoting literacy. Noah Webster seemed to echo Rotary's beliefs when he set about creating the first American dictionary. He felt that if there was a democracy where people were responsible for government, they should be well informed and educated. Information would come through written and spoken

words. Even today, as we try to become better informed, we constantly encounter words that we don't fully understand. The dictionary solves that problem.

Rotary believes the dictionary project helps foster those goals since third grade has been identified as critical for learning and a key year to instill a lifelong love of reading. Students transform from learning to read to reading to learn.

Rotary meets every Thursday, 12:15 p.m., at Pinsetters Bar and Bowl on Maple Ave. Please feel free to attend any meeting to learn more about our organization. You may also contact the Rotary at PMRotary@yahoo.com or by calling (856) 663-0898.

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CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Holiday Celebrations Continue In Pennsauken

continued from page 1

of the Pennsauken Fire Department's snow maker. Also, a certain winter princess and her favorite snowman pal will be in attendance for photo opportunities.

Several food trucks will be on hand for attendees to enjoy something to eat during the event; musical entertainment will be provided via the Eagles Pep Band; and children will be able to enjoy making sand art ornaments.

A very popular person this time of year, Santa Claus will arrive via fire engine at 6:00 p.m. to light the tree. Residents are encouraged to bring their phones and cameras, as Santa will be available for photos with children after the tree lighting. A trackless train will shuttle attendees to visit Saint Nicholas. There is no rain date for this event.

"The tree lighting at the Municipal Building, with our songs, hot chocolate, and special guest, is another great treat for our youngest residents," says Mayor Betsy McBride.

Third Annual Parade Of Lights

The Township's third annual Parade of Lights will be held on Friday, Dec. 13

at 7:00 p.m. Fire trucks, emergency service vehicles, and more will be decorated with bright lights and festive decorations as they ride along Township streets, beginning at the School District's Park Avenue Campus, then making a right on Union Ave. and ending up on Wyndam Rd. In addition, Santa Claus is sure to make an appearance, riding a fire engine at the end of the parade, which should take roughly an hour from start to finish.

"Our annual parade is a great event," says Elwood Martz, Parks and Recreation. "We hope that the entire Pennsauken community joins us for this special holiday celebration."

Attendees are invited back to the Park Avenue Campus after the parade's conclusion to hear the announcement of this year's winners. Light refreshments will be provided while supplies last. The town's Parade of Lights will be shared via Facebook Live on the "Pennsauken Television" Facebook page.

For more information on both events, contact Elwood Martz at (856) 665-1000 x151 or emartz@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

Operation Christmas Dinner To Help Service Members Away From Home

continued from page 1

personnel a holiday dinner with all the fixings, courtesy of Legacy Catering & Events, who is only charging cost for the food. They'll also be able to take home a package of homemade cookies, made by volunteers.

For entertainment, there will be big screen TVs, as well as video game consoles. Santa will also stop by and make an appearance.

"We're trying to just bring them some fun; to get them off base and not be so formal," says Heather. We want them to feel that they can kick their shoes off and relax."

And as service members living in barracks can't have pets, several dogs will be on hand to provide some furry companionship.

"We'll have a couple of really great dogs there, so they can play and get licks," adds Heather. "We're looking to

create a homey kind of feel. That's kind of the goal here."

While the Cornforths have plenty of volunteers, they are reaching out to the community to help with funding the dinner. The money raised will help pay for the food, as well as potentially small gifts for the servicemen and women. Any funds left over, or if the event is cancelled due to an unforeseen issue, like the base going on lockdown, will go to sending care packages to troops deployed overseas. Heather and Rich have set up a GoFundMe page, "Operation Christmas Dinner." Prior to publication, they had already raised over \$2,000.

"You always want someone to be there for your children when you can't," says Heather, who hopes to make Operation Christmas Dinner an annual event. "We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude. — Cynthia Ozick."



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Pennsauken PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

By Joe Scavuzzo, Director,
Department of Public Works

On behalf of the crew of your Public Works Department, I want to begin this article by extending our warmest wishes to our residents, businesses, and their families for the happiest of holidays and a very Happy New Year. During the annual task of putting up the new calendar, filling in all of the birthdays, anniversaries, and other anticipated dates, it gives us the opportunity to set some goals based upon our experiences of the previous

A Year In Review For Pennsauken's Public Works

year. As in most businesses, the end of a calendar year is a time where an organization can look back and evaluate its strengths and identify areas in need of improvement. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank our crews for another year of committed loyalty to our residents through their work.

Pennsauken enjoyed another year of highlights in 2019. Public Works was involved with most of these, including a significant number of clean ups; food truck and touch-a-truck events; the Summer Kickoff Bash; Harvest Festival; Haunted Hayride; the annual Holiday Parade; and

the tree lighting ceremony. Additionally, I'd like to point out some of the Public Works-specific items that occurred in 2019.

Due to an October retirement mentioned in my last article, we hired a replacement in an entry-level laborer position. We welcomed Norman in early November. He comes to us with some polished construction skills that we plan on using to offset the need for hiring subcontractors for smaller jobs around town.

Our town welcomed a new in-house engineer, Steve Squibb. In early November, a New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection agent conducted an audit of Pennsauken's stormwater management program. Together with Department Public Works staff and Steve, we navigated the questions, program evaluation, and site visits. At the end of the audit, with new requirements and our existing program, the auditor claimed that we are in the top one percent of towns in the state for a complete and thoroughly run program. We are currently looking ahead to the next permit cycle and incorporating the new recordkeeping and maintenance requirements to stay ahead of the curve and maintain a healthy, functioning system. We will expand our educational outreach on the importance to keep this

system free of debris and contaminants from reaching our local bodies of water.

What we do is not always glamorous stuff. It is our goal to perform our work with as high of a standard as we can achieve. To that end, it is definitely worth reflecting on what was yet another wet year. To the crews that cut down trees, as well as maintained our parks and athletic fields, this was no easy task. For those that maintain storm retention basins, there were weeks where we couldn't get in there to cut the basin itself due to the ground's saturation! The vehicle repair garage division of Public Works had another great year, maintaining all police, fire, EMS, Public Works and other Township vehicles with top-notch service. John and his staff kept productivity high, even during the second phase of concrete floor replacement. Our road patch crew, with

the infusion of some young guys, flexed some muscle in September, successfully paving the four-tenths of a mile-long walking path at "The Pit," one of our parks next to Carson School. This project proved that future, small-sized paving projects could be designed and completed in-house. Next year, we plan on finishing the smaller interior paths and the walk path at Lena Skelly Park, located in between Magnolia and Clayton avenues.

No Leaf Left Behind

I would be remiss to not mention that Public Works will continue to pick up large curbside leaf piles until Dec. 31. Those that bag their leaves can place them at the curb for Wednesday yard debris pickup by South Jersey Sanitation throughout the year. After Jan. 1, we

continued on page 32

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It has been our honor and privilege to serve many families during this past year. Currently we have on display in our main foyer of our Pennsauken Funeral Home a "Tree of Remembrance". Personalized Angel Ornaments adorn this tree in recognition of loved ones who have departed in the past year. It is our intention to make ornaments available to our families as permanent keepsakes from our family to yours. Please call to make arrangements to receive your personalized ornament.

Our heartfelt wishes are with you and yours. We hope that the peace of the season will be with you as you continue life's journey.

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Yes, There IS A Santa Claus... At Burrough-Dover House On December 6

By Robert Fisher-Hughes, AAP Columnist and Amateur Historian

On Friday, Dec. 6, starting at 6:00 p.m. in the evening, a holiday tradition returns to historic Burrough-Dover House off Haddonfield Rd. in Pennsauken, when St. Nick himself visits the old house which will be all decked out in holiday finery! The grounds will be illuminated from the parking lot to the door with glowing luminaria. The Victorian parlor

will be dressed in greens and golds and reds from the Christmas tree, with presents and stockings by the fireside as if the Dover family children were nestled all snug in their beds!

Also in the holiday parlor, a small group of carolers, who have adopted the stage name, "The Royal Tannenbombers," will hold forth with songs of the season and the several holidays we observe at the conclusion of each year.

"Deck the Halls" was never more festive or more appropriate! Additionally, the evening in the parlor will include readings of the holiday favorite, "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

Stepping from the parlor into the kitchen, visitors to Burrough-Dover House will feel the true warmth of the season, with Santa Claus seated on the settle before a glowing fire, ready to meet the kids, both naughty and nice, and hear the holiday wishes of each.

Santa has agreed to sit by the fire for a photograph or two with all his favorite young folk, so bring your cell phone or your camera to capture a moment worthy of posting or framing!

Enjoy a holiday cookie, sip some warm cider, and learn a bit of the history of how the holidays were observed in our community in days long past, and start the season off both merry and bright!

Burrough-Dover House is located at 9201 Burrough-Dover Lane, off of Had-

donfield Rd. opposite the Wyndam Rd. traffic light.

Visit the Griffith Morgan House or Pennsauken Historical Society pages, or the group "Pennsauken History Forum" on Facebook for more details or directions; or leave a message at (856) 486-9561 or e-mail pennsaukenhistorical society@gmail.com for more information. Both Burrough-Dover House and Griffith Morgan House are also open for tours, events and research by prior appointment.



Jolly Ole' Saint Nicholas will be visiting Pennsauken's historic Burrough-Dover during a special nighttime open house on Friday, Dec. 6.

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- Applicant household income must be less than \$37,860 for a one-person household and \$43,260 for a two-person household. One-bedroom unit rents are \$843 per month and two-bedroom unit rents are \$1025 per month.
- Applications are currently available for **weekday** pick-up from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM at The Diocesan Housing Services Corporation, 1845 Haddon Avenue, Camden, NJ 08103.
- Interested parties may also call (856) 342-4187 to request applications by mail. Completed applications must be submitted by mail or hand delivery to the address below. Applications will not be accepted by fax.

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EDITOR'S

DESK



Jolly Ole' Saint Nicholas Has An 08109 Area Code

By Frank Sinatra,
AAP Editor

Forget the North Pole. As a kid, Santa Claus called Pennsauken home. In fact, he lived next door to me.

Growing up at the original, "palatial Sinatra estate," we lived next door to some pretty awesome folks on both sides of the house. And as my siblings and I learned, our neighbor, "Uncle Ron," had the best job in the entire world: he was the head toy buyer for JC Penney. And boy, did our next door Santa connection hook us up.

Coming down the steps on Christmas morning was insane. If you grew up in the 80s, you know the names fondly: Masters of the Universe, GI Joe, and Transformers. There were also those toys from a certain movie that came out in 1977, courtesy of Kenner. Mom told us later that Uncle Ron would include toys that she didn't even ask for. Wrapping paper was ripped open with youthful enthusiasm mixed with careless abandon in a toy-fueled craze. While some assembly was required, restraint was not. Visions of AA batteries danced in our heads.

Looking back at it all, I see it differently than I did as a child, who was just amazed that he was lucky enough to get off the naughty list to get a toy haul that'd make

Geoffrey the Giraffe jealous. My parents and my Uncle Ron got a lot out of seeing the joy on our faces as we opened our presents. There was quite a bit of love behind each and every robot and superhero. I remember the toys, but the sentiment is what truly has staying power. I also realize how lucky I was. Others were not as fortunate.

Those toys were extremely well played with. He-Man defended Castle Gray-skull valiantly, knocking Beast Man or Tri-Klops off the parapet on numerous occasions. Cobra Commander was sent packing by Snake Eyes, Zap, and Scarlett. And Grimlock was the strongest Dinobot there was. A lot of these toys are still in my parents' basement. I've introduced my kids to them; and Skeletor hangs out in my CR-V, yelling at "clumsy mortals," thanks to those Honda commercials a few years back.

As a parent, I'm doing my best to make sure Santa stays in Pennsauken where he belongs, albeit a little differently. And like my mom and dad before me, I try to remind my not-so-little ones there's a birthday on the 25th too, after reviewing the items they've circled in the LEGO catalog. Some things never change.

However you celebrate, have a great holiday and a wonderful start to the New Year.

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Connor Is Pennsauken's Latest Eagle Scout

By MaryAnne McFarland

On Nov. 2, friends and relatives gathered to honor Sean Connor, Pennsauken's latest Eagle Scout.

Sean has been in Scouts since he was one of the first K-Kub/Lions in kindergarten with Pack 116. A core group of Scouts who joined together at five years of age have stayed with the program and are currently working on their Eagle, with Sean being the first of the group to complete the Eagle project and required Merit Badges.

Sean's Eagle project took place in an elementary Catholic school, where he built shelves across the back of the class-

room wall and did restoration of school furniture, including the teacher's desk and the mail slot cabinet.

During the award ceremony, Sean was given his Eagle Badge, as well as an Eagle neckerchief and slide. The Eagle acknowledges the help and support a Scout's mom provides by presenting Elaine Connor with an Eagle Mother's pin. There is generally someone who helps the Scout, acting as a mentor. The



Sean Connor

Eagle Mentor pin was presented to former Scoutmaster Tom McCue.

The Eagle Charge was done by Matt Trost, an Eagle from Troop 118: "As an Eagle Scout, you have assumed solemn obligation to do your duty to God, to country, to your fellow Scouts, and to mankind in general. This is a great undertaking. As you live up to your obligations, you bring honor to yourself and to your brother Scouts."

Congratulations to Sean! We're extremely proud of you!

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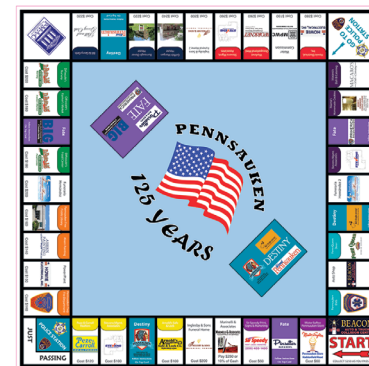
Every Friday, circulars get delivered to homes across Pennsauken. Do your part – whether you use them or not – and pick them up and properly dispose of them. A little effort goes a long way to improving our neighborhoods!

"Pennsaukenopoly" Board Game Still Available, Perfect For Holidays

In conjunction with the town's 125th anniversary, Pennsauken created "Pennsaukenopoly," a special keepsake board game. The games are still available and make a great gift for family and friends for the holidays!

"Visit" some of the great places and businesses in Pennsauken and enjoy a fun, competitive game for the whole family.

Games are now just \$20 and are available for purchase at the Pennsauken Township Municipal Building, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd., during normal business hours. All proceeds from the sale of "Pennsaukenopoly" will go to support local charitable initiatives.



For more information, call (856) 665-1000 x127 or e-mail aap@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

A Year In Review For Pennsauken's Public Works

continued from page 28

officially switch our equipment over for winter operations and require the bagging of leaves.

Christmas Tree Disposal

Although I will mention it again in January, live Christmas trees can be placed out on yard debris collection days. The only exception to this is if decorations, lights, tinsel are left on the tree and if the tree is flocked. This means the tree needs to be placed out for trash on

your trash day.

A Recycling Update

Looking over the "No Plastic Bags" initiative, which began back in August, we have seen a decrease in the amount of rejected recycling loads. There is still room left for improvement and we will continue our educational outreach into 2020.

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please reach us at (856) 663-0178 or e-mail publicworks@twp.pennsauken.nj.us.

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FOODADVENTURES



The Antipasto Rustica is just one of the great items you'll find at Pennsauken's Montegrillo Cucina Italiana, which is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

By Rachael Shugars, AAP Columnist

This month is a big one for Montegrillo Cucina Italiana at 5825 Westfield Ave. They're celebrating their 20th anniversary in Pennsauken!

My family and I have loved going to Montegrillo's since I was a teenager. Now in my early 30s, I have made my way through a lot of the menu and tried

Montegrillo Cucina Italiana Celebrates Twenty Years In Pennsauken

many of their popular dishes. My family has even held a few birthday dinners and small events there. The staff is always friendly, the owners are kind, and the food is amazing.

Just last week, my son and I went to get a quick bite to eat; I ordered the Antipasto Rustica. It has everything you could want: delicious cheese, flavorful meats, grilled eggplant, roasted red peppers, and crusty bread. My son got a slice of pizza. He enjoys a good old fashioned plain cheese pizza and the slices here are a great size. We were able to get three smaller slices out of one slice! They also offer a ton of specialty pizzas, if you want something a bit more playful. The portions in general are very large, so you really get a lot for the price.

The menu is vast but manageable to navigate. I really love the scallop and broccoli alfredo. The portion is enough for dinner and lunch the next day for me. The price points are fantastic for any

budget and the lunch menu is even better. The cherry on top is the basket of fresh baked bread you get when you got for dinner. It includes hot, soft rolls and tomato pie, a huge hit with my son.

Their kids menu, in my opinion, rocks. It's four fantastic menu items, including tortellini, and grilled cheese. The appetizers are also a good option for anyone looking for a lighter meal. I often pair an appetizer with one of their soups and get a perfect-sized meal for myself.

Whether you're going for something low-key, or want something slightly fancier, they have it all. Service is also really fast. Whether you are getting take-out or eating in, you won't be waiting long.

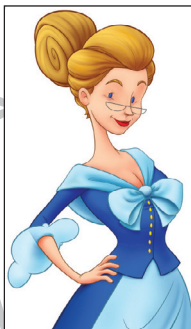
So head over to Montegrillo Cucina Italiana and enjoy a local Food Adventure.

Montegrillo Cucina Italiana is open seven days a week. For hours of operation, menu items, daily specials, and more, visit their website at Montegrillo.com.

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School Events and Programs • Township Events

HEALTHYLIFESTYLES Don't Be SAD: Recognizing Seasonal Affective Disorder

By Suzette Price, RN, ASN, IKCN,
Pennsauken Township Board of Health

It's fall. Leaves have turned wonderful colors before falling. We even got an

extra hour of sleep with the clocks turning back one hour.

So why do I feel so tired and down?
It could be Seasonal Affective Disorder or SAD for short.

der or SAD for short.

SAD is a type of depression that's caused by changes in seasons, not just from fall to winter. SAD can begin and

end at about the same times every year. If you're like most people with SAD, your symptoms start in the fall and continue into the winter months, sapping your energy and making you feel down in the dumps.

Signs and symptoms of SAD may include:

- Feeling depressed most of the day, nearly every day
- Losing interest in activities you once enjoyed
- Having low energy
- Having problems with sleeping
- Experiencing changes in your appetite or weight
- Feeling sluggish or agitated
- Having difficulty concentrating
- Feeling hopeless, worthless or guilty

Symptoms specific to winter-onset SAD, sometimes called winter depression, may include:

- Oversleeping

- Appetite changes, especially a craving for foods high in carbohydrates
- Weight gain
- Tiredness or low energy

It's normal to have some days when you feel down. But if you feel down most of the time and you can't get motivated to do your normal activities you enjoy, it may be time see your doctor. This is especially important if your sleep patterns and appetite have changed; you're drinking alcohol for comfort or relaxation; or you feel hopeless or think about suicide.

Different things can cause SAD, including factors that change to your circadian system, serotonin levels. Treatment may include light therapy (phototherapy), medications, and psychotherapy.

Seek medical attention if you are feeling depressed or having suicidal thoughts.

For more information on Seasonal Affective Disorder, visit MayoClinic.org.

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How about a natural remedy? Learn how to curb your food cravings, reduce your blood sugar levels naturally, lower your need for medication, loose weight and have more energy.

Are you ready to change, to improve your health and quality of life? It's not hard, it's different! How committed are you to your desire for change, to rid those bad habits, support your good habits. Change comes from the inside out not from the outside in. With the right vision and a strong WHY, your life and health can change for the better! Or, you can stay where you are! If your not working to improve your health, it will not get better on its own!

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Keep Homes Safe During Holidays *continued from page 4*

it is rated for the intended use.

- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.
- Stay away from power or feeder lines leading from utility poles into older homes.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples (not nails or tacks) to hold strings in place. Or, run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).
- Turn off all holiday lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.
- Use caution when removing outdoor holiday lights. Never pull or tug on lights — this could cause stress on the connections that could create a fire hazard.
- Outdoor electric lights and decorations should be plugged into circuits protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to protect against electric shock. Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can also be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

sistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.

- Keep burning candles within sight.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles out of reach of children and pets.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid sharp or breakable decorations, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children who could swallow or inhale small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- To avoid eye and skin irritation, wear gloves when decorating with spun glass "angel hair."
- To avoid lung irritation, follow container directions carefully while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

FIREPLACES

- Use care with "fire salts," which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that, if eaten, can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting. Keep them away from children.
- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. Wrappings can ignite suddenly and burn intensely, resulting in a flash fire.

CANDLES AND OTHER DECORATIONS

- Use only non-combustible or flame-re-

For more holiday decoration safety, visit www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/611.pdf.

FRIENDS of the LIBRARY Wrapping Up The Year With Great Activities, Courtesy Of The Friends Of The Library

By Arlene Miller, Friends of the Pennsauken Free Public Library

Six lucky and extremely happy people were this year's Friends of the Pennsauken Library raffle basket winners. Wayne Berglund, Joan Riley, Mark Robertson, Barbara Leonetti, Rosalina Anderson, and David Nelson each went home with a basket filled with more than \$300 worth of merchandise and gift cards from our very generous local merchants. What? You weren't one of the winners? We'll do it again next year, so be sure to buy a few more tickets and keep your fingers crossed!

Our holiday concert featuring the Westmont Accordion Club will be held on Thursday, Dec. 5, at 7:00 p.m. in the Library's Community Room. The

evening's repertoire includes a selection of popular songs and show tunes, mixed with some holiday classics. Following the concert, join us for a reception with light holiday refreshments.

Speaking of the holidays, our last bake sale of the year comes up Saturday, Dec. 14, from 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., just in time to save you from having to bake for all your holiday company. Cakes, brownies, nut breads, cookies, and maybe even a pie or two will be on sale, so come early, stock up, and get ready to wow all your guests with your "baking skills." We won't tell anyone where you really got them.

Our next gathering of the Munch and a Movie crew comes up on Tuesday, Dec. 17, from 12:30 – 3:30 p.m. If you've been shopping or cooking entirely too much

or searching for all those last minute gifts, take a few hours off; mosey on over to the Library's Community Room; bring your lunch and a friend or two; and unwind with some snacks, beverages and a great movie, compliments of the Friends.

To help you relax even more, how about a few chair yoga sessions? There are two remaining classes this year, on Friday, Dec. 6 and 13, from 12:30 – 1:30

p.m. in the Community Room. Dress comfortably and come ready to stretch out all your cramped muscles, while you unwind to pleasantly soothing music and exercise designed to both get rid of stress and give you a great gentle workout. Call the Circulation Desk to sign up at (856) 665-5959, ext. 3.

Finally, we want to thank everyone who participated in the many Friends of

the Pennsauken Free Library fundraisers and activities this year. Your participation helps us continue to help the Library purchase new items and offer more community programs. We can't do it without your help, and we appreciate your support. We wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and hope that the upcoming year, brings you happiness and joy.



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NO Cajas de pizza

NO Espuma de poliestireno o de cualquier clase

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NO Mangueras y ganchos

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CLERKS C O R N E R

Application for 2020 Dog Licences

By Pam Forman, Acting Township Clerk

Name of Owner _____

Address _____

Telephone No. _____

Cell No. _____ Number of Dogs at this address _____

Dog's Name _____

M/F _____ Dog's Age _____ Breed _____

Length of Dog's Hair (Circle one) SHORT MEDIUM LONG

Color and Markings _____

Altered (Circle one) Yes / No Date _____

Rabies Inoculation Expiration Date _____

As of the first Monday in February, all dog license renewals are late and a \$10 late fee will be assessed.

FEES: \$12 if the dog has been spayed or neutered (altered)/\$15 if not spayed or neutered (altered). Renew by mail: fill out form and enclose a check or money order for the exact amount made payable to the Township of Pennsauken and mail it to Attn: Twp. Clerk's Office, 5605 N. Crescent Blvd. Pennsauken, NJ 08110. **Please include a stamped, self-addressed envelope and copies for proof of rabies inoculation.** Renew in person between 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Township Clerk's office. Any questions please call 856-665-1000 x122.

State regulations consider a dog's vaccination valid only if it DOES NOT expire before Nov. 1 of the current year and failure to obtain or renew a dog license could result in a court summons.

Woof! Woof! It's Not Too Late For Dog Licenses



By Loverboy,
Faithful Dog
of AAP Editor,
Frank Sinatra

My daddy's letting me have my own article this month! He wanted me to let you know about dog licenses. I'm a dog. I have a license. I'm kind of an expert.

According to something you humans call "state law," any dog that lives in Pennsauken, is six months old or older, and has a set of permanent teeth, needs a license. And while it's a little metal tag that we dogs wear around our collar, it's a pretty big deal.

Dog licenses aren't just for keeping track of all the awesome puppies big and small that live in town; they can be used

to help find your favorite four-legged friend if they get out of the backyard.

Dog licenses are just \$12 for a dog that's been spayed or neutered, or \$15 if your pet is "au naturale." That's not too pricey. It's still not too late to get a license for your dog. In fact, you have until the first Monday of February before you'll be charged a \$10 late fee. So don't wait! Your furry kid will thank you for it.

Simmons Pennsauken Facility To Close By Late 2020

Last month, Simmons Pet Food, Inc. announced plans to transition wet pet food production capacity to optimize its operations, making necessary the closure of its pet food operations in Pennsauken, N.J. by late next year.

"Simmons is committed to achieving world-class customer service and exceptional product quality," said David Jackson, Chief Operating Officer, Simmons Foods. "This production shift is a necessary step in advancing our pet food operations strategy."

During its assessment and analysis, the company considered upgrading the

Pennsauken facility, but found the cost would have been prohibitive. In 2020, Simmons will transition Pennsauken's canned pet food production to a new, high-speed line at its Emporia, Kan. complex.

"Business decisions that impact the lives and livelihoods of our team members are difficult. We are committed to doing all we can to provide affected team members with resources and support during the transition and closure of the plant in Pennsauken," said Jackson.

Career fairs and other support will be provided at the appropriate time to help

make the transition as smooth as possible, including providing separation pay and other benefits. For those at the Pennsauken facility willing to relocate, Simmons will offer positions at its other locations.

PENNSAUKEN DECEMBER PUBLIC MEETINGS

Township Committee
5:30 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5
and Monday, Dec. 16

Zoning Board of Adjustment
7:00 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 4 and 18

Planning Board
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 3 and 17

Meetings are open to the public
and are held at the
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Barrientos Commits To Attending Old Dominion University

Faculty, family, and friends were on hand last month as Pennsauken High School senior Robert Barrientos signed his letter of intent to attend Old Dominion University on a Division I scholarship and play baseball for the Monarchs.

"We're proud to be here to honor one of our senior student athletes," said Eric Mossop, athletic director for Pennsauken High School. "We'd like to thank all of his teachers throughout his life, as well as his parents, the first teachers he ever had. He makes me proud to be a Pennsauken alumnus, knowing that he's going to continue the same success he's had here at the next level."

Starting catcher for the Pennsauken High School Indians Baseball Team and past Carpenter Cup MVP recipient, Barrientos has been the cornerstone of the team for the last three years. He's also a champion in the classroom, boasting a cumulative 3.5 GPA and nothing but A's and B's in his high school career.

"The campus is beautiful and the coaches and players are cool," said Barrientos, who plans to major in accounting at Old Dominion. "I'm always ready to do my work and do what needs to be done."

We congratulate Robert on this momentous accomplishment and look forward to what his college career holds in store for him.



Pennsauken High School senior Robert Barrientos has committed to attending Old Dominion University, where he will join the Monarchs baseball team.

PHS Coaches Win Elite Eight Volleyball Tourney



Congratulations to the Pennsauken High School Coaches, who won the District's community wide "Elite Eight" volleyball tournament! A special thank you to the District staff, Pennsauken's first responders, and Bayada employees who participated in this fun event!

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PYAA SPORTS

PYAA Holds Beef And Beer Fundraiser On December 7

A beef and beer fundraiser benefiting PYAA Panthers Football will be held on Saturday, Dec. 7, 7:00 p.m. to midnight, at the PYAA Field House, 3501 Elm Ave., Pennsauken. The event features food, music, games, raffles, and prizes. Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door; auction tickets are \$10. You must be age 21 or older to participate. For more information or to order tickets, call Tasha at (856)

906-0368 or Coach Vic at (856) 438-0469.

PYAA Wrestling Registration Continues Through December

PYAA Wrestling is open to girls and boys ages 4-14. PYAA Wrestling offers a two-week trial for girls interested in joining the wrestling team. Visit PYAA.net or [Facebook.com/pyaawrestling](https://www.facebook.com/pyaawrestling) for more information.

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— F U N E R A L H O M E —

"Family Owned & Operated"



Presents

Holiday Remembrance Plus



TREE LIGHTING



Each Family
Receives a
Personalized Gift
To take home in
memory of their
Loved One

Wednesday, December 11th

Inglesby & Sons
2426 Cove Rd
Pennsauken NJ 08109
856-662-1271

Refreshments at 6:30pm
and program begins at 7pm

Karen Lamb - Manager, NJ Lic No 5040